

ST PATRICK'S NEWS



SUMMER 2026



This year has definitely been one to remember! We have achieved so much together as a school community. The most significant achievement has to be the wonderful Ofsted report we received in November. We know our school is a very special place, but it was lovely to hear that the inspectors thought so too. It was particularly pleasing that the inspectors recognised that the bedrock of our school is our Catholic identity and this drives our decision-making and how we behave as a community.

Our main focus is learning and we have so enjoyed watching our children grow this year. So many children have really pushed themselves and have responded very well to the challenges set for them by teachers. It has been great to see children reviewing their progress and setting themselves new goals and targets. They really respond to our motto of 'be the very best version of yourself'.

We have worked hard this year to develop our prayer and liturgy in school. This is important so that all children grow, not just academically, but in their faith and spirituality. Every child has experienced a range of prayer, and form tutors across the school have done a wonderful job in developing children's skill and confidence in delivering prayer. We have also installed a new prayer garden, planted by a wonderful group of Year 10s. We were lucky enough to have Bishop John come and bless the garden. We just have to water it now!

Earlier this term we had some very sad news that one of our parents, Dr Paula Ormandy, passed away. Paula was a wonderful example to all of us - she was hard-working, down-to-earth and highly intelligent. She was a wonderful parent who supported the school and was never afraid to speak her mind. We will miss her. We keep her and her family in our thoughts and prayers as they come to terms with life without her.

As a parent myself, I understand more than ever the challenges of having a child at secondary school, but also the joys too. I appreciate that there is sometimes a clash between what suits our own child and what makes a school community run smoothly for 918 children! I know parents understand that too and I am grateful for your support. I am especially grateful for how you prioritise your child's growth by sending them in every day. Our high attendance is something that defines our school and those who attend 97% or more have an almost 80% chance of achieving well in English and Maths, compared to those below 90% who have only an 11% chance of grade 5 and above in these key subjects. Please continue to avoid holidays and appointments in term time, and keep sending your child in school with minor illnesses. We usually find once they are here with us they are fine.

We have been far and wide this year on trips and visits - you will see many of them as you leaf through this newsletter. We know that learning takes place inside and outside of the classroom and we love developing relationships with our children in a different setting - we often find out so much about them that we didn't know before! There have been too many visits to recall here but the highlights have to be our ski trip to Italy, French trip to Disneyland Paris and our spiritual retreat to Castlerigg in The Lakes. Our children are so lucky to have staff who are prepared to give up their own holidays to give them an experience to remember. We have been on so many trips, had many visitors in to school this year and experienced so much; including Holocaust Memorial, to supporting sports day at St Gilbert's, to Wimbledon tennis, to McCann advertising agency competition, to the whole of Year 10 visiting Loreto College! Despite the various trips, one thing always remains the same: our children do us so proud and we are always told 'your children are the best we have ever worked with.' We are so incredibly proud of them.

Thank you to our fantastic staff who work tirelessly every day. We have a wonderful team and everybody is prepared to go above and beyond so children can get the very best out of their time here. Special thank you to those staff who are moving on to pastures new at the end of this year for your service, especially Mrs McKinlay- Boyle who has served our community for over 20 years. We will miss her gentle and kind approach.

Our governors also work incredibly hard. They are volunteers and give up so many hours to support the school and challenge the senior team so that we deliver a great Catholic education for all children. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated governing board who care deeply about St Patrick's.

Big thank you to our Year 11s for their contribution to our school. They have been a brilliant year group and we have loved having them. We wish them the very best of luck for their GCSE results in August and look forward to celebrating with them. Thank you to the parents and carers of the Class of 2026 for all your support. We will always be happy to hear how children are getting on post-St Patrick's, so please drop us an email with any news big or small and we will celebrate it in staff briefings and give staff a smile. I would also like to thank our Head of Year 11, Mr Hindmarch for his hard work, leadership and care for the children over many years, as he steps back from being a head of year.

I hope you all have a restful summer and enjoy the break from routine. Thank you again for all of your support and engagement. See you all in September to begin again!

Kind regards
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!

Here are some of the things we have been up to this term.

FLEETWOOD TRIP

In June, our Year 10 Geography students visited Fleetwood Beach to carry out coastal fieldwork as part of their studies.

It was a fantastic day, with plenty of sunshine, as students investigated the rate of longshore drift and explored how groynes help to manage sediment movement along the coastline. It was wonderful to see everyone applying their geographical skills in the field, collecting data and developing a deeper understanding of coastal processes in a real-world environment. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to bring classroom learning to life, while gaining hands-on experience of geographical fieldwork.



MADE IN MANCHESTER

A small group of Year 9 pupils got the rare opportunity to listen to five very successful Manchester people talk about their journeys at a Made in Manchester event organised by StateTalking (a brilliant company set up to inspire children in state schools).

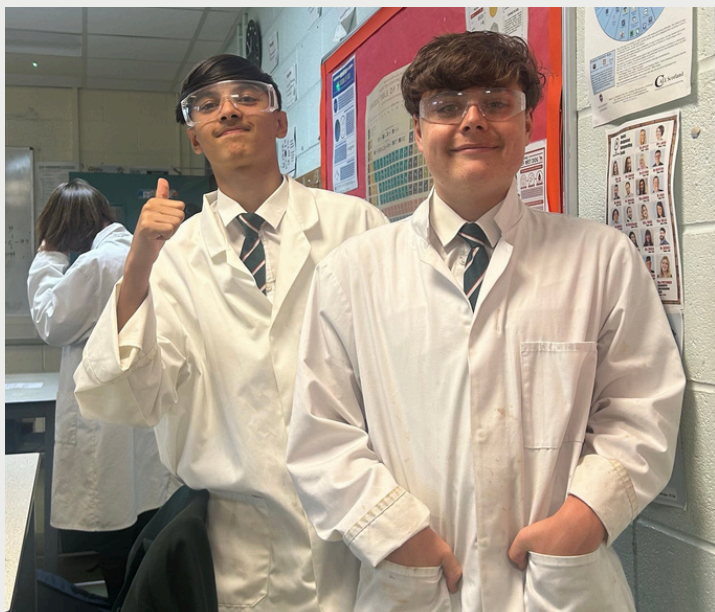
All of the five speakers started out at Catholic schools across Manchester as children and have now reached the peak of their field. Children were able to listen to one of our former pupils, successful property developer, Tim Heatley, but the big pull (sorry Tim!) was the lead singer of The Courteeners, Liam Fray, who inspired us with his trademark honesty and self-deprecation. It was riveting to hear how he went from writing song lyrics on the bus, to selling out Heaton Park! It was a brilliant event that gave us all a huge boost.



YEAR 10 COLLEGE TASTER DAYS

Our Year 10 pupils recently enjoyed two fantastic College Taster Days, visiting Salford City College campuses; including Eccles Sixth Form College, Pendleton Sixth Form College, City Skills, FutureSkills and Worsley College, as well as Loreto College. These visits gave pupils the opportunity to experience a wide range of subjects, explore different learning environments and gain a valuable insight into college life as they begin to consider their future education and career pathways.

Throughout every visit, our pupils embraced the experience with enthusiasm, confidence and maturity, making the most of each opportunity to try something new. We were incredibly proud of the way they represented our school, demonstrating excellent behaviour and a positive attitude at all times. Staff at Loreto College were especially complimentary, commenting on how amazing our pupils were throughout the day. It was wonderful to see our students enjoying themselves, while developing their aspirations and broadening their horizons. Well done, Year 10!



COMINO ADVERTISING COMPETITION

Congratulations to our students, who achieved an excellent second place in the Comino Advertising Summer School competition. Working with one of the North West's leading advertising agencies, students developed and pitched their own campaign to an audience of over 60 people, gaining first-hand experience of the creative communications industry. It was a fantastic opportunity to build confidence, develop valuable skills and explore future career pathways. We are incredibly proud of their achievement and the way they represented our school.



THANK YOU FATHER MARTIN

As the school year comes to an end, we would like to sincerely thank Father Martin for celebrating our Friday Masses throughout the year and for his continued support of our school community.

We are especially grateful to him for leading our Year 11 Leavers' Mass, which gave us the opportunity to celebrate, reflect, and pray for our students as they begin the next chapter of their journey.

Thank you, Father Martin, for your dedication, kindness and guidance. We wish you a restful summer and look forward to welcoming you back next year.



MEGA MANIA DIGITAL IT DAY

Build a robot. Battle an AI. Crack a cyber challenge.

Ten of our Year 7 students joined pupils from schools across the Salford area for the exciting Salford Digital Mega Day at Salford City College. Throughout the day, they took part in a range of engaging challenges, including programming, artificial intelligence, and robotics, while competing for prizes against other schools. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop their digital skills, work as a team, and experience the latest technology in action.



Our Year 10 students also had an outstanding day at the event. They performed exceptionally well in the competitions, bringing home both 1st and 2nd place prizes. The medals in the photograph below are a testament to their hard work, creativity, and excellent teamwork. Congratulations to all the students who represented the school so brilliantly!



SALFORD CHILDRENS BOOK AWARDS

On 30th June, a group of students attended the Salford Children's Book Awards at Salford University Library, where they had the opportunity to meet the shortlisted authors and hear about their love of libraries, as well as the inspiration behind their writing.

Patrick delivered an excellent speech about The Great Phoenix of London, and Savannah asked Patrice Lawrence a thoughtful question about the process of writing a book.

The award ceremony was a fantastic celebration of reading, and congratulations goes to Nathanael Lessore, whose novel 'King of Nothing' was crowned this year's winner. Copies of the book are available from the School LRC for anyone who would like to discover what all the excitement is about!



BIBLE STUDY

Bible study takes place every Thursday in the school chapel. Students have the opportunity to reflect on a different piece of scripture using the S.O.A.P method. (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer). Thank you to everyone who attends.



PARIS TRIP

At the start of the Easter Holidays, Mr Bessonies, Miss O'Brien, Mrs Shepherd, Mrs Jones and Mr Mallalieu took a group of students to Paris!

From the magic of Disneyland to a scenic cruise along the Seine, as well as visits to iconic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, our students made memories to last a lifetime.

Well done to all pupils for representing the school so brilliantly, it was an unforgettable experience!



SEND SPORTS DAY

On Tuesday 23rd June, we took a group of pupils to the athletics track at the Etihad for a fun day of athletic events. The pupils were amazing and all actively joined in the events and represented the school excellently. Despite the very hot weather, they all performed really well and we had fantastic results.

Special mention to Rex, Cora and Francis for making it through to the final of their running event, and to Arthur who finished overall 3rd in the Javelin. We are super proud of them all.



SUNDAY MASS

Pupils celebrated Sunday Mass with parishioners at St Joseph the Worker RC Church in Irlam! Thank you to Fr Tony for the very warm welcome, and for giving us the opportunity to minister through reading, the bidding prayers and the offertory.



VOLUNTEERING WEEK

During Volunteering Week, our Year 9 pupils truly embodied both the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and our school values of Love, Service and Resilience. Through their generosity, commitment and willingness to help others, they made a positive difference across our school community and demonstrated what it means to live out these values in action.



CARE4CREATION CLUB

This term, Care4Creation Club has focused on tackling litter around school. Pupils created posters to raise awareness of the global impact of littering, and took part in litter picks during break and lunch times. Well done to all involved for helping to care for our environment.



MISSION DAY 2026

On 1st July, we celebrated our annual Mission Day with a variety of activities taking place across our school community, each linked to one of our school values: Truth, Resilience, Service, Love and Faith.

Throughout the day, our pupils and staff took part in a range of meaningful experiences, serving others, building relationships and reflecting on how we can live out these values in our daily lives. Activities included a hike up Rivington Pike, a visit to RHS Bridgewater, a survival skills camp at Hollinwood Scout Camp, a trip to Savio House followed by a walk to White Nancy, and watersports at Salford Quays.

All of Year 7 spent the day in Manchester, where a range of activities included; visiting the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), Manchester Art Gallery, Central Library, the skate park and the Museum of Illusions, giving pupils the opportunity to explore the city's rich culture, history and attractions.

Pupils who remained in school also made a valuable contribution to our community by helping to create our new Prayer Garden and taking part in a Sustainability Day, learning about caring for our environment while putting our school values into action.

A huge thank you to everyone who organised and supported the day, making it such a memorable and inspiring experience for our whole school community.

Please enjoy this collection of moments from across the day.



MAY THE MONTH OF MARY

This term, our pupil chaplains led a pop up on May the month of Mary! We reflected on how Mary guides us in our lives and handed out rosaries.



SUNDAY MASS

In May, we were thrilled to welcome Father Martin into school to celebrate Mass for the Feast of Ascension.



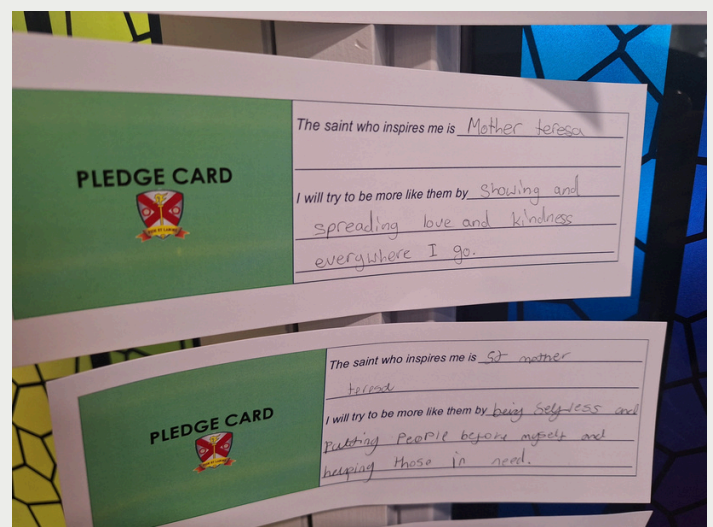
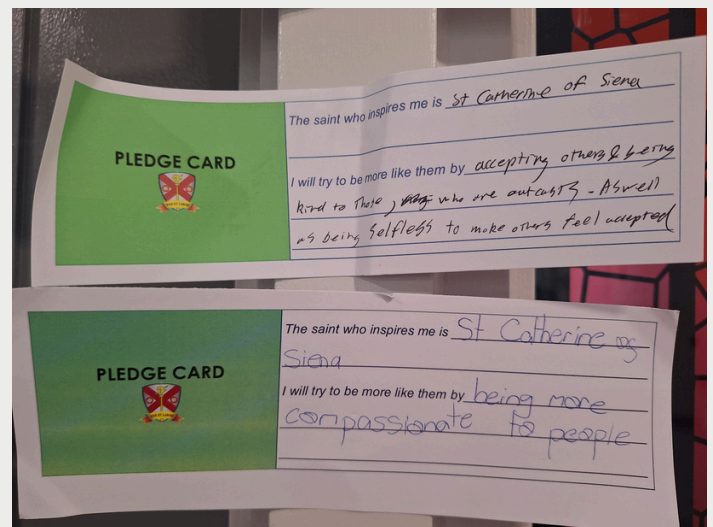
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

A team of our staff were commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist! We are thankful for all they do to support the prayer life of St Patrick's.



PLEDGE CARDS

Pupils across all year groups have been writing pledge cards inspired by their favourite saint from the five who are linked to our school values of Truth, Resilience, Love, Service and Faith. Having revisited the lives and values of St Maximilian Kolbe, St John Henry Newman, St Catherina of Siena, St Teresa of Calcutta and St Francis of Assisi, pupils have committed to emulating their example in their daily lives and treatment of others. Based on the number of pledges received, St Maximilian Kolbe and St Teresa of Calcutta are pupils' current favourites!



COMINO FOUNDATION POET IN RESIDENCE PROJECT: A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY

Over the Spring term, we have been proud to take part in the Comino Foundation Poet in Residence initiative. This unique programme brought professional poet Millie into our school community, offering pupils the chance to explore poetry in new and inspiring ways. Through a series of creative workshops, pupils learned how language can be used to express identity, emotion, imagination and personal experience.

Working alongside a practising poet provided pupils with an opportunity that goes beyond the traditional classroom. They experimented with poetic form, rhythm, imagery and voice, producing thoughtful and powerful pieces that reflect their creativity and growing confidence. The project encouraged pupils to take risks, embrace originality and take pride in their ideas.

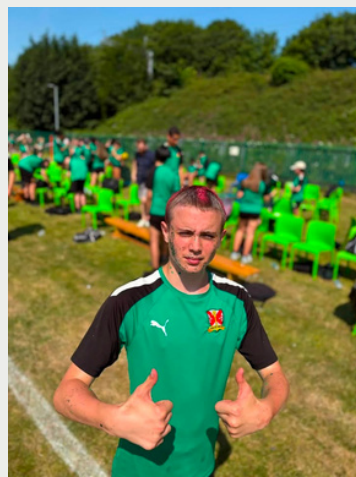
A Lasting Impact

The Poet in Residence programme has enriched our curriculum and inspired pupils to see themselves as writers with something meaningful to say. Their work will be showcased at the Manchester Poetry Library, one of the North West's only dedicated poetry libraries, and published in a professional anthology. This recognition highlights their talent, effort and commitment.

We extend our sincere thanks to The Comino Foundation for their partnership and support, and to Millie for her enthusiasm, expertise and encouragement throughout the project. This experience has made a lasting impression on our young writers and has strengthened our commitment to nurturing creativity across the school.

SPORTS DAY 2026

Despite the extreme temperatures, Sports Day was a roaring success! Well done to everyone who took part.



PUPIL GROUP CHANGES FOR THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

As part of our annual review and planning process, families should be aware that some pupils may experience changes to their teaching groups or classes for the new academic year.

Each year, we carefully review staffing, curriculum requirements, option subjects, timetables and class sizes to ensure that we can provide the best possible learning experience for all pupils. As a result, some movement between classes is both normal and necessary as we prepare for September.

Any changes are made with pupils' educational needs, and the smooth running of the school, in mind. We appreciate that pupils often enjoy being in familiar classes; however, experience shows that they adapt quickly and continue to thrive in their new groups.

We would like to reassure families that a change of class does not affect the quality of teaching, the curriculum being delivered, or the high expectations we have for every pupil. Our staff work closely together to ensure consistency across all classes and subjects.

Thank you for your continued support as we prepare for another successful academic year. If your child is affected by a class change, they will be supported to ensure a smooth and positive transition.



UNIFORM LEGISLATION CHANGES

A reminder that from September 2026, schools will no longer be allowed more than three branded uniform items, plus the school tie. These changes are designed to reduce costs for families and improve access to affordable uniform options.

A branded item is defined as one that includes a school logo or is only available from a specific supplier due to its design, colour or fabric.

From September 2026, the school uniform will consist of only **three compulsory branded items**, plus the school tie:

- School blazer (from £31.00)
- Green Chantry jumper (from £20.50)
- PE T-shirt (from £10.50)
- Plus our school Tie (£7.00)

Branded PE shorts and socks will no longer be compulsory; plain black alternatives may be worn.

The new PE kit is simpler and more consistent, with fewer items required:

- Green PE t-shirt (compulsory)
- Shorts (must be plain black with no sports logos, text or designs ie. stripes, however, school branded shorts are available to purchase)
- Optional items: school branded ¼ zip top, track pants

This replaces the previous range of multiple tops and hoodies.

- The new PE kit will be available to purchase from Summer 2026
- The current Puma PE kit may be worn until it no longer fits

Uniform suppliers

In line with the new legislation, we now have two suppliers of school uniform:

- Whittaker's , 123-125 Chorley Road, Swinton, M27 4AA
- McLellan's 94-96 Moorside Road, Swinton, M27 0HJ



OUR SCHOOL SHOW - MATILDA JR

This year, Mrs Mulholland and Miss Barham staged their very first school production at St Patrick's! They (in true Miss Trunchbull style!) told the children this Matilda is no school play, but a professional show, so step up and deliver! The children did not disappoint! They worked so hard in rehearsals, pushing themselves to learn lines and hone their acting and singing skills in preparation. The three shows were truly amazing and with every performance the children grew in confidence, adding more detail into the facial expressions, more volume to their singing, and more energy into their dancing. We are so very proud of them, from the Year 7s who have thrown themselves into school life, to the Year 10s who have performed many times over the years, yet amaze us anew every time. Great show everyone and not a maggot in sight! If you know, you know!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH - BRONZE AWARD

Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants recently completed their expedition, walking from Rivington to Bibby's Farm Campsite. Over the two days, students navigated their routes using maps and compasses, carried all their own equipment, and worked together to overcome the challenges of the expedition.

Throughout the two days, students demonstrated excellent resilience, teamwork and determination. Despite the physical challenge of carrying heavy rucksacks and walking several kilometres across varied terrain, they supported one another, remained positive and developed valuable outdoor skills. At the campsite, pupils pitched their own tents, cooked their evening meals on camping stoves and took responsibility for looking after themselves and their equipment.

The expedition was a fantastic opportunity for students to build resilience, independence and problem-solving skills, while enjoying the beautiful countryside. Staff were incredibly proud of the maturity, perseverance and positive attitude shown by every participant.

A huge thank you goes to all the staff who gave up their time to support the expedition and help make it such a successful and enjoyable experience. We wish all of our Bronze participants the very best of luck in going on to complete both silver and gold.



GROUP WINNER OF THE LAUDATO SI' AWARD FOR CARING FOR CREATION

We are incredibly proud to have been recognised as the **Group Winner of the Laudato Si' Award for Caring for Creation**, celebrating our commitment to protecting God's creation and inspiring environmental action within our school community. Throughout this year, our Care for Creation group has focused on the importance of clean air and the impact that air quality has on both human health and the environment. Our main project has involved propagating and growing spider plants before placing them in classrooms, offices and shared spaces around the school. Spider plants are well known for their ability to absorb harmful airborne toxins, helping to improve indoor air quality and create a healthier learning environment for pupils and staff. As these plants continue to grow, we hope to expand the project so that every classroom benefits from cleaner air.

Alongside this work, we have partnered with our Student Council to raise money for the **Ella Roberta Foundation**, a charity dedicated to improving air quality across the United Kingdom and campaigning for cleaner, healthier environments. Ella Roberta became the first person in the world to have air pollution officially recognised as the cause of her death, a landmark moment that highlighted the devastating impact poor air quality can have on people's lives, particularly children. By supporting the foundation, our pupils have developed a deeper understanding of the importance of environmental justice and the responsibility we all share in protecting the health of our local and global communities.

Our project has been inspired by the teachings of Pope Francis in Laudato Si', where he reminds us that, "Exposure to atmospheric pollutants produces a broad spectrum of health hazards, especially for the poor" (Laudato Si', paragraph 20). This powerful message encourages us to recognise that caring for creation is also about caring for one another. Through practical action, fundraising and education, our pupils have shown that even small changes can make a meaningful difference. Winning the Laudato Si' Award recognises not only what we have achieved this year, but also our ongoing commitment to living out our Catholic mission by protecting our common home and creating a healthier future for everyone.



KS3 REWARDS BREAKFAST

Our KS3 rewards breakfast was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the hard work, positive attitude and achievements of our students. It was fantastic to see everyone enjoying a well-deserved breakfast together in recognition of their commitment throughout the year.





PROM 2026



STAFF CHANGES

As we reach the end of another busy and successful term, we also take a moment to say goodbye to a number of valued colleagues who will be leaving us.

Each of them has made a meaningful contribution to our school community, and we are grateful for the dedication, professionalism, and care they have shown during their time with us. They have supported our pupils, colleagues, and families in countless ways, and their impact will be felt long after they have left.

On behalf of everyone at the school, we would like to thank them for all they have given and wish them every success, happiness, and fulfilment in the next chapter of their careers and lives.

We know you will join us in thanking our departing colleagues and wishing them all the very best for the future.

Mr Adam Jeffery - Teacher of Science

Mr Luan Barrie - Assistant Headteacher (moving on to be a deputy in a SEND school)

Mr Stuart Mallalieu - Head of Science (moving on to lead an alternative provision centre)

Mrs Sally Newall - Teacher of Technology

Mrs Kate McKinlay-Boyle - Teacher of IT

Mrs Victoria Lynch - Business Support Officer

Mrs Christine Toogood - Teacher of Science

Mrs Naomi Jolly - Teacher of Humanities

Mrs Chloe Murphy - Cover Supervisor

Mrs Victoria Brown - Office Manager

Mrs Rita Hall - Catering Manager

Mr Matt Carson - Teacher of English (Maternity Cover)

Mrs Mia Wallbank - Teacher of RE (Maternity leave until September 2027)



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

Mr Kevin Eccleston - Teaching Assistant

Mrs Meghan Howard - Maths Teacher

Miss Elizabeth Hughes - Teacher of RE

Miss Laura Blackmore - Teacher of Science

Miss Emily Brackpool - Teacher of Science

Connie O'Grady - Volunteer Progress & Wellbeing Mentor

Tahlia Dixon - Volunteer Progress & Wellbeing Mentor

Adela Schreuder - Volunteer Progress & Wellbeing Mentor

Welcome



IN OTHER NEWS...



KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



1st September - Staff INSET
2nd September - Staff INSET
3rd September - School reopens to all
7th September - Y11 Award Ceremony
8th September - Y10 Award Ceremony
9th September - Y9 Award Ceremony
9th September - New Year 11 Information Evening
10th September - Y8 Award Ceremony
11th September - Year 7 Welcome Mass
16th September - Open Morning
17th September - Y10 Work Experience Launch Event
17th September - Year 7 Meet the Form Teacher
18th September - Y7 School Photographs
24th September - Y11 Careers Information Evening
29th September - 2nd October - Y7 Retreats (one day)
12th October - 23rd October - Y11 PPE's
23rd October - School closes for half term

Virtual Welcome Meetings - Thursday 3rd September

Year 9 - Miss O'Brien 3.30pm

Year 8 - Miss McCulloch - 4.00pm

Year 10 - Mr Elliott - 4.30pm

Details including the Teams link will be sent on Wednesday 3rd September.

SALFORD SCHOOLS CUP WINNERS!

Our Year 9 boys football team won the Salford Schools Cup back in April, with a thrilling 5-1 victory! Well done to all involved!



MR BUDGETT GOES THE EXTRA MILE

In May, Mr Budgett took part in the AJ Bell Great Manchester Run to raise money for Motor Neurone Disease (MND). Thanks to the generosity and support of family, friends and the school community, he raised an incredible £640 for this important cause. A huge well done to Mr Budgett, and thank you to everyone who donated.



As always, our full term dates for 2026-2027 can be found on our website: [TERM DATES](#)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For up to date school news, please follow our school social media pages:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpatsrc

Instagram: [@stpatricksrchigh](https://www.instagram.com/stpatricksrchigh)

Dedicated PE Instagram: [@stpatspe](https://www.instagram.com/stpatspe)

X.COM: [@stpatsrc](https://www.x.com/stpatsrc)



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