



Welcome *from the Headteacher*

Welcome to the third edition of the St Patrick's newsletter since my arrival.

It's been a busy but productive first term and we've made real progress. We welcome six new staff, Miss Law



(school learning lead), Mrs Ince (lead practitioner of English), Mrs Holdsworth and Miss Birtle (English), Mrs Painton (Art) and Mr Sharma (Science).

At the end of term we came together at our first whole school assembly and I felt great pride at seeing how far our students have come. We will continue raising expectations and I thank you for your support.

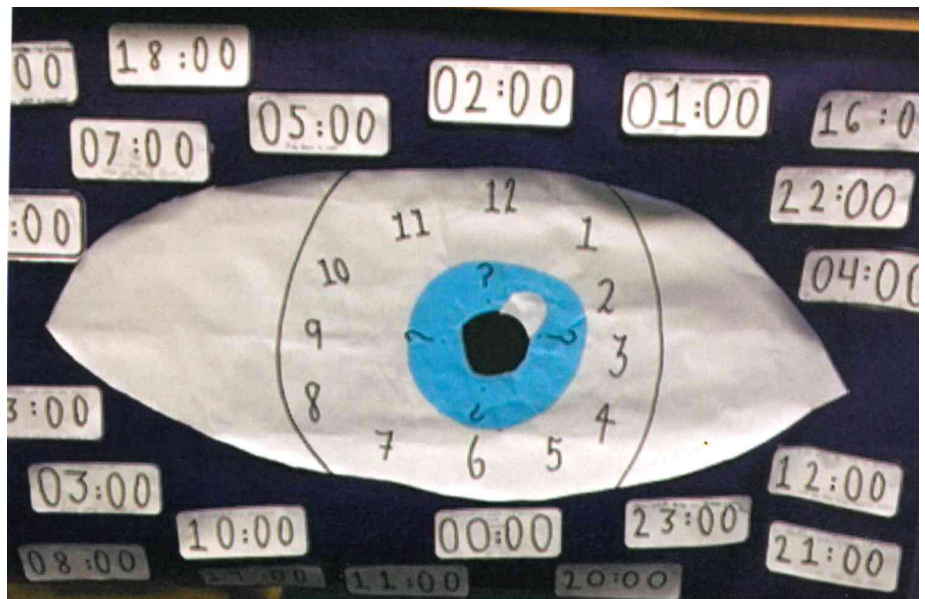
We are all absolutely delighted by the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. Thanks to all of you for helping us take such impressive strides forward in such a short space of time. Full details are available on the website.

Our next parents' forum is on **31 January from 3pm-4:30pm.**

Thank you and God bless,

Mr Michael Burns
Headteacher

BRINGING THE YEAR OF THE WORD TO LIFE



One of our missions within school is to try to bring the scriptures to life as part of the Year of the Word currently being celebrated by the Church.

As a Catholic community we are blessed that we are able to hold regular Masses in school to help us do this and we were delighted to welcome Father Pat during Advent to celebrate the sacrament with our Year 7 students.

In their RE lessons the students worked hard to prepare their mission to go out and spread the Good News based on the messages of hope, peace, joy and love.

One of the Gospel passages we read was Matthew 3:1-12, where we heard how John the Baptist was trying to persuade the people to turn their lives around so they would be able to connect with Jesus.

We also looked at the gospel message to "stay awake." Students made the eye

in our picture to resemble a clock face, illustrating how we don't know the hour the Son of Man will come.

They also examined their own lives and looked at which areas they could improve.

Some pupils gave accounts of times when they had not been the best version of themselves and by recognising this were willing to offer these accounts to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Throughout the KS3 curriculum, it's important for students to become familiar with the practices of worship and to develop their knowledge of how they influence the lives of Catholics.

Advent also offered us an opportunity to remember how we are all Called To Serve as we welcomed into school members of the community in order to share this holy time of year through a special Advent liturgy.

Egg Project Has Caring Message

Year 9 health and social care students were given an egg before Christmas and tasked with decorating and creating a birth certificate for their egg.

The aim of the project is to think about how babies develop and what is needed to nurture them and keep them safe.

Students have become really engaged with their "babies", taking them home to spend Christmas with them.

We're looking forward to seeing their images when they complete their workbooks.



Walk Shows Our Solidarity With Refugees

Twenty-six students from Years 7 to 11 were joined by Mrs Fisk, Mrs Porter and Carol Cross from CAFOD for a walk of solidarity with refugees.

By joining the "Share the Journey" campaign we showed how much it means to us that refugees and migrants are treated with dignity and respect.

We stopped halfway, at St Patrick's Church, to take part in a liturgy and reflect on the testimonies of refugees.

We walked 287,284 steps in total. Well done to everyone who took part!

Stories Leap Off The Page After Book Project



The English department made a conscious effort to promote reading with our Key Stage 3 students in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Staff planned creative lessons in which students were encouraged to bring their reading to life.

Students were asked to read a book of their choosing and then produce an artistic representation of it afterwards.

The high level of engagement in the project was clear from the excellent home learning they produced.

Creative Students Make Christmas Stockings



Some of our creative Year 8 students attended a textiles lunch club with Mrs Greathead and made Christmas stockings.

They came up with designs and created stockings from felt, with some students using the computerised sewing machine.

The lunch club will move into food from February. We can't wait to see what the students make!



Proud Thursdays Underline Our Praise Culture

Ensuring St Patrick's has a praise culture is something we feel passionate about as teachers and leaders of young people.

Last half term we made a conscious effort to praise students for their work in as many different ways as possible.

One of the highlights was Proud Thursday, when students were encouraged to showcase pieces of work they were proud of in return for certificates and prizes.

Around 40 students turned up, showing their confidence and willingness to seek praise.

A survey also showed that students feel the school's praise culture is improving and makes them want to do better.



A Warm Welcome To Our New Staff

We were delighted to welcome six new staff members to our college community at the start of this month.

Their passion and expertise in their subject areas will be vital as we continue to drive up standards and ensure that students reach their full potential, a challenge that is set by all leaders in the school.

We are privileged to have you all joining our team.