



Welcome

from the Head of School

Our May newsletter stories demonstrate how our faith continues to bring hope, pride and joy into our school community.



Our recent Catholic Life theme of "Fair Trade" gave our pupils an opportunity to recognise that we are all responsible for making selfless, positive changes which will help others in the wider world.

This month we also celebrate the hard work, resilience and talents of our Year 11 pupils as they begin to embark on their journey into the next chapter of their lives.

We take time to remember the wonderful memories they created here at St Patrick's and the joy they will cherish forever.

As Pope Francis says: "We can live this life to the fullest – with our feet planted firmly on the ground – and respond courageously to whatever new challenges come our way."

Mrs Deborah Law,
Head of School

PRAYER AND ACTION FOR A FAIRER WORLD



Each half term we choose a topic from our collective worship timetable to focus on as a whole school.

This enables members of staff to contribute towards the Catholic life of the school within their own subject areas.

This half term our focus was "Fair Trade", linked to World Fair Trade Day, which is organised by the World Fair Trade Organisation. This year it was celebrated on May 8 and had the theme #BuildBackFairer.

Pupils took part in a wide range of activities throughout the week. Highlights included...

Year 9s taking part in the Banana Split game in their Geography lesson. The lesson highlighted the work that groups such as the World Fair Trade Organisation and Fairtrade do in order to enable small scale farmers living in developing countries to receive a fair price for their crops.

Year 9 Food Technology pupils were shocked to discover that when it comes to sourcing ingredients for a pasta

sauce, there are very few choices on our supermarket shelves that display the Fairtrade logo.

That led to them posing the question, "Why?" The pupils analysed this issue and suggested some actions that fair trade campaigners and activists can do to encourage consumers to purchase Fairtrade items in future.

Our Year 8s took part in prayer stations, which were set up by our school chaplain in the chapel. Prayer stations use creativity to help people find new ways to connect and speak with God.

Each station was linked to us being part of God's family. They encouraged the pupils to think about and promote justice for our brothers and sisters living around the world.

The pupils really benefited from this experience, developing their understanding and learning that there are many different ways we can pray.

PUPILS WORK ON MEMORIAL GARDEN



Three of our Year 10 pupils assisted with the construction of our school's memorial garden. They helped with applying the stop cuts on the crucifix sign INRI, which translates as Jesus of Nazareth, King of The Jews.

There will be an opening ceremony for the memorial garden in our final half term this year.

If anyone would like their family members' names to be included in the memorial garden, please contact our school chaplain, Mrs Fisk.

BOOK A VISIT TO OUR NEW LIBRARY!



We would like to warmly welcome all our pupils to come and explore our new look, bright and vibrant library.

The library will be open on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes from 12.05pm to 12.30pm as a quiet space where you can read or borrow a book, do some research or homework or play a quiet board game with your friends.

It would be great to see you all there!

FIRST LETTERS ARRIVE FROM NEW FRENCH PENFRIENDS



Something very special happened during lockdown – pupils in one of our Year 7 classes received their first letters from their new French penfriends!

Excitement rose as the large envelope containing the letters arrived in the classroom and pupils were each given their letter.

Since then pupils have been working hard to write their replies in French. They will be sending them before half term.

We will be including more classes in this project later this year with the aim that all Year 7 pupils will soon have their own partner to correspond with throughout their time at St Patrick's.

Vive le Français!

CAREERS EVENT BRINGS INSIGHT INTO WORLD OF WORK



Year 10 pupils will have a fantastic opportunity to learn about the world of work in a two-day event to be held in July.

A wide range of visitors from the world of work will deliver interview and employability skills and CV-writing workshops.

A marketplace of colleges and post-16 providers will also be hosted to provide information on the options open to them when they leave school.

All pupils will have the opportunity to have a mock interview and question employers about their industries.

YEAR 10 BOYS DELIVER COACHING SESSIONS



Pupils have been enjoying the chance to resume the wide range of extracurricular activities on offer again after lockdown.

One real success story has been Year 10 pupils' voluntary involvement with Year 7 football.

Four Year 10 boys were interested in leading the Year 7 sessions, including delivering coaching drills.

Not only did the Year 7 pupils enjoy associating with older role models, but the Year 10 boys significantly developed their leadership skills and maturity.

SEND UPDATE: GIRLS IN FOCUS

AUTISM IN GIRLS

Girls on the Autism Spectrum have the same core characteristics as males. However, Autistic girls are frequently missed or misdiagnosed because their differences are less clear due to **masking** and many difficulties are **internalized**.

- Anxiety is often the most prevalent characteristic
- May follow friends or have a "mother hen"
- May have a flat affect or overly expressive with facial expressions
- Often strive for perfectionism and can be viewed as the "perfect student" by teachers
- Can be viewed as "shy"
- Often responsive but struggles starting social interactions
- May speak with a high pitch voice or unusual intonation
- Preferred topics that are more typical for age and gender
- Good at imitating others in conversation and in play
- May be viewed as "bossy" or direct
- Often present with sensory differences

These "missed" girls often present with anxiety and depression, are more likely to be sexually abused, & have higher rates of eating disorders and self harming behaviors. ©Mrs.SPEECHIEP

Autistic girls are historically diagnosed much later than boys.

While they have the same core characteristics as boys, they present differently and are often more socially motivated.

As a result, they are often misdiagnosed with ADHD, anxiety, SPD, depression or eating disorders.

The image shows some of the most commonly seen characteristics seen in girls.