



Welcome *from the Headteacher*

As we welcome the early signs of spring, our Year 11s are now firmly focused on the final run-up to their examinations.

Parents should monitor their child's revision and ensure they are dedicating enough time to their studies.



Our Lenten liturgies have been helping us reflect and be thankful and tutor groups are taking part in fundraising activities to help those less fortunate.

Please watch our social media for several new ways we are celebrating pupils' hard work.

Finally, I would like to ask for your support to allow a safer flow of traffic outside college at the end of the school day.

Staff are there to assist children, but cars parking outside the entrance create a real traffic risk.

We are working with the council to create a solution but this will take time, so please park away from the entrance.

God bless.

Mr Michael Burns
Headteacher

MARKING ASH WEDNESDAY TOGETHER IN FAITH

In the middle of a busy week at St Patrick's, we paused to observe Ash Wednesday together as a faith community.

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of our journey through Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

The day was about leaving baggage behind and braving the unknown, carrying nothing but the mark of God's beloved.

During our liturgies we recognised that we are not perfect. We spoke of the things that stop us from becoming closer to God – hatred, arrogance, gossip, greed, indifference and despair.

Students made their Lenten promises and received their ashes after listening to our scripture reading, taken from the Gospel of St Matthew. It reminded us to pray, fast and give alms in secret, expecting nothing in return but the love of God.

Jesus said to his disciples: *"Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order*

that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father.

"When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward."

Pope Francis has asked us to reconsider the heart of this message this Lenten season. He says fasting must never become superficial.

"No matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great," he says.

As we begin our Lenten journey we make this prayer:

Father, our source of life, you know our weakness. May we reach out with joy to grasp your hand and to walk more readily in your ways.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Theatre Performance Brings Shakespeare To Life

A group of Year 11 pupils visited Billingham Forum Theatre to watch a live performance of Macbeth.

This was a useful experience as well as an enjoyable one, as the Shakespeare classic is one of their set GCSE English Literature texts.

Throughout their revision they will be delving back into the set text and their teachers believe the experience of seeing the play performed will bring to life the work they'll be doing in the classroom.



Prom Scheme Incentive As Exams Near

We have decided to reward our Year 11 students for their hard work and application as they prepare for their GCSE exams.

The "access all areas to prom" incentive scheme has been set up to encourage them to reach their full potential.

Students can earn tokens for their attendance at intervention sessions, completion of revision packs and for receiving praise from senior leaders for their hard work and application.

The tokens they receive, both individually and as a team, will help them win a range of prom extras - we've been delighted to see them really buying into the scheme.



Workshop Helps Banish University Myths



Our picture shows some of our Year 9s who met Richard Petty, from Oxford University's Trinity College for a Choose Your Future workshop.

Access and engagement officer Richard gave an excellent presentation that helps dispel some of the myths we sometimes hear about pathways into the country's top universities and finance.

There was also information on Oxford University and its collegiate system, student clubs and activities and the Russell Group.

The students' behaviour and attitude was exemplary and they were a real credit to the school.

Talented Students Show Their Pride



More St Patrick's students have been given the opportunity to showcase their outstanding work as part of our Proud initiative.

Work shown came from a wide range of subject areas, illustrating a change in culture at the college.

Students who brought their work were given a certificate from headteacher Mr Burns as a reward for their efforts.

Mini-Monsters In The Fabric Of St Patrick's

Our talented Year 7 Textiles students have been making fantastic mini-monsters out of recycled materials.

The work helped them learn basic skills including hand sewing, machine sewing and how to use an iron to apply applique.

As well as developing their abilities, the use of recycled materials also ensured that they lived out the message of Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, On Care for our Common Home.



Captain Marvel Leads Year 10s To Victory

The captain of our Year 10 football team led the team to victory over Trinity Catholic College in their first ever game together.

The boys were rewarded for their efforts with a hard-fought 3-1 win.

Huge thanks go to Mr Irvine, who got the boys together and guided the captain in organising the players.

Credit also goes to Trinity, who worked tirelessly throughout what was an excellent exhibition for the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust.

