



Welcome from the Head of School



As we enter the spring and the dark nights slowly retreat, we look forward to the weeks ahead and reflect upon the wisdom of Isaiah.

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

Reflective year group Ash Wednesday liturgies marked the start of our Lenten journey and throughout Lent we raised funds for those in need in our local area and further afield.

March is also when we celebrate the feast of our patron, St Patrick, and our primary school and college communities gathered in church to give thanks.

It's wonderful to see St Patrick's going from strength to strength as we work together to ensure our young people get the Catholic education they truly deserve.

Deborah Law
Head of School

Feast day celebrations to remember



The feast of our patron, St Patrick, was a day to remember for all our pupils.

Members of staff were encouraged to wear something green, including green ribbons, as we marked the importance of this very special occasion.

The whole school was decorated with shamrock plants to symbolise St Patrick's analogy of the Holy Trinity. This reminds us that as a community, we're united in our belief in three persons in one God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

At the start of the day, teachers delivered a lesson that aimed to teach pupils about the life and significance of St Patrick.

The lesson also encouraged pupils to empathise with those people, like St Patrick, who have migrated from another country and been welcomed into new communities.

One of the highlights of the day was our St Patrick's Day Mass.

All Year 9 pupils took part in a mini-pilgrimage to St Patrick's church, where

Father Pat O'Neill celebrated Mass with pupils from our Catholic primary schools, St Patrick's, Christ the King and St Thérèse of Lisieux.

At break time there was a sale of shamrock-shaped cookies, with funds raised going to local charities.

Irish music was played in the reception area and the dining hall during lunch, when Irish food was served, and quiz sheets were placed in stands in the dining hall for pupils to enjoy learning more about St Patrick.

Pupils were also greeted with a video that was created the previous day of some of our pupils Irish dancing around the school building.

We thank the whole community for being involved in creating moments of wonder that lift the hearts and minds of all.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh – or thanks a million!

GENEROUS RESPONSE TO LENTEN APPEALS

Lent is a time for giving, a time for change and a time to challenge ourselves to be better people.



Here at St Patrick's, our Lenten journey began with our Bags2School collection, when staff and pupils raised £40 in exchange for 100kg of clothing.

Delicious soup and bread was sold during our Hunger Lunch, with profits from the small charge of £1 going to charity.

Our chosen charities were CAFOD and Caritas Ukraine, which provides clothing, footwear and other necessities to the most vulnerable.

We also held a collection of goods to be shipped directly to Ukraine for those most in need.

Social media shoutouts highlight special achievement



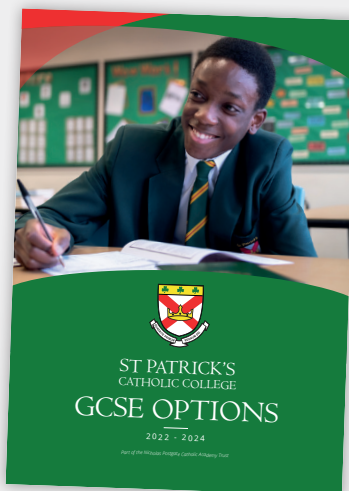
We have been using our social media platforms to give shoutouts to pupils who have been hitting the heights outside of school.

Our picture shows Phillipa, from Year 11, who won a bronze medal in powerlifting.

Other achievements include Isaac, in Year 7, who won silver after running 60 metres in 8.87 seconds, Lydia, also in Year 7, who performed in the pantomime *Cinderella*, and Emily, from Year 11, who will act in the new series of *Waterloo Road*.

We are so proud of you all!

Options evening helps pupils decide



We welcomed Year 9 pupils and their parents into school for a special evening to help them prepare them for their options selection.

Miss Law and Dr McGravey spoke about the pathways available and parents and pupils had the opportunity to discuss choices with subject teachers and to speak to post-16 education providers.

A big thank you to our house captains, who helped out on the night and directed parents and pupils to subject areas.

A CREEPY START TO WORLD BOOK DAY!



Anthony Horowitz's chilling tale, *The Man with the Yellow Face*, helped create a wonderful buzz throughout school on World Book Day.

Teachers and pupils read the story during lesson one, before watching short clips from authors discussing their work.

Our lunch menu had the theme of the Hungry Games, a twist on the title of Suzanne Collins' *Hunger Games* trilogy.

Later on we held our annual book swap event, with refreshments served in the library.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE ANSWER CALL OF POPE FRANCIS



Each year group gathered in the school hall for Ash Wednesday liturgies written and delivered by our Catholic Life Ambassadors.

Pupils received their ashes as a mark of their outward Christian dignity.

At lunchtime we offered fifteen decades of the Sorrowful Mysteries to Mary, Queen of Peace.

We continued to answer the call of Pope Francis to pray for peace in Ukraine by ending the day with a whole-school prayer service.

Litter pick marks World Kindness Week



Our house captains took a trip to Tees Barrage for a World Kindness Week litter pick.

Miss Law greeted the pupils with hot chocolate and cake to thank them for their efforts on their return.

One pupil said: "It's important that we continue to take care and act as stewards towards our local area."