

Our Lady's School Newsletter



Dear Parents & Guardians,

The arrival of spring always brings a sense of hope and positivity to us all. The girls enjoy arriving to school in the light and departing home when it is still bright. The school finished up the Winter Sports timetable with some outstanding results. Our U16 Division 1 team came 2nd in the All Irelands while our U16 Division 2 came 2nd in Leinster. In hockey both our Junior A and Senior B teams reached Leinster finals. The creativity and talent of our students is inspiring and you will be able to read in the following pages about many of our students who also excel outside the classroom.

Academically it is a very busy time. Our 6th Years have calmly approached oral and practical exams and are supported throughout by the staff. 2nd and 3rd Years are getting used to their CBAs recognising the value of ongoing classroom feedback and assessment.

We have a large team of dedicated and hardworking staff who support the girls in every way possible both inside and outside the classroom. This was clearly on display during Wellbeing Week where staff gave freely of their time to ensure that your daughters were offered lots of different learning opportunities to enhance their physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing. We started the week off with the bouncy castles, moving to Pound where at one stage we had 150 students all beating their drum sticks at the same time in the Sports Hall and smiling!

Stuart Wilson gave well received talks to the 5th Years and parents on resilience and the importance of controlling social media use. Louise Lennox demonstrated the preparation of easy healthy snacks. Humourfit dramas and Jigsaw talks also

contributed to a greater understanding of wellbeing.

Digital Detox Day encouraged us all to put down our devices for the day, resulting in quiet computer rooms! Students and staff went back to the joy of basic board games whilst other students perfected the art of Origami. Mindfulness, karate, self-defence, hip hop, nutrition displays, sing a long and Boxfit were also available.

A big thanks to the Parents' Council for the excellent healthy breakfast provided to over 400 students who collected 4 stickers for walking, cycling or doing extra activities during the week.

Our Wellbeing week culminated with the annual Mile run completed by all students and the Céilí Mor organised by Coiste na Gaeilge. In true OLS style the Coiste were not put off by the wet weather and had 3 plan Bs ready to put into action!

OLS is a true community and we all came together this week for two events to generate funds for our Sports Facilities Fundraiser to replace the astro turf pitch. All students took sponsorship cards home for their 5km walk on Wednesday, April 10th, and raised great funds. Many parents and friends supported the Parents' Council Race Night in the Spawell on April 11th. The Parents' Council have done a tremendous amount of work on this and I thank you for supporting them and hope you enjoyed the chance to meet other parents from your daughter's classes and year.

Thank you for your continued support and Happy Easter.

Marguerite Gorby | Principal

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Rí-rá agus ruaille buaille!



SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Seachtain na Gaeilge began on March 11th with the Coiste Gaeilge (and St Patrick) visiting all classes, getting us all in the mood to speak and think 'as Gaeilge' with a little Irish quiz. The following day staff and students took part in 'Lá Labhartha na Gaeilge' with staff and students all attempting to speak the 'cúpla focal'. The Coiste Gaeilge and the Irish teachers held ranganna Gaeilge for the staff in the lead-up to Seachtain na Gaeilge so everyone was well prepared! This was followed by a 6th Year 'Ciocal cainte' on Wednesday in the GPA, a great chance to get in some extra practice before their orals.

During the week every TY class took on the organisation of a lunchtime activity. L4 kicked things off with some dancing in the GPA on Tuesday. B4 organised a treasure hunt on Wednesday. On Thursday we had bingo 'as Gaeilge' organised by C4 and on Friday P4 entertained us with a 'scannán' in the lecture theatre. A big 'maith sibh' to the Coiste and the TY classes for such an enjoyable mix of activities. The following week we had many class competitions – well done to all those who won their duaiseanna deasa. On Friday, March 22nd Gaeilge and Wellbeing combined in the form of our Ceilí Mór. Due to poor weather we had to split into three venues but there was 'rí-rá agus ruaille buaille' for all nonetheless! A big 'bualadh bos' to the Coiste Gaeilge for making it an occasion to remember.

JUNK KOUTURE

This year 3 teams from OLS were selected for the Dublin Regional Final for the BOI Junk Kouture national recycled fashion competition. The contest encourages young designers in second level education to create striking couture designs from recycled materials. It takes elements such as fashion, design, engineering and environmental sustainability and transforms them into a creative contest like no other.

The Regional Final took place in the Helix on March 5th. The girls did amazingly well as they were part of only 320 groups to be selected from almost 4,000 entries nationally. Unfortunately, our teams weren't selected for the grand final in the 3Arena in May, but a great day was had by all. Well done, girls!



TY UPDATE

Sign Language Course

Well done to our TYs who completed their Sign Language course on March 11th. Over the course of the year 53 students have completed this course with some students continuing to practice their Sign Language skills in order to develop it as part of their Gaisce.

Enterprise Awards

As part of their Enterprise module all TYs created a mini company which they first debuted at our very successful in-school Christmas Fair back in December. All our mini companies enter the Student Enterprise Awards and the 'Grow a Gift' project by Lily Wende Doyle, Eleanor Sinnott, Sarah Mc Naughton and Heather Morgan qualified as finalists. They were excellent representatives for our school at the competition in Tallaght IT on Friday, March 8th. The TY and LCA entrepreneurs had a stall at the Bushy Park Market on March 23rd with a range of great products for sale ranging from Mother's Day gifts to pocket money treats.



TY Sign Language students



Enterprise stall at Bushy Park Market



1st Year Study Skills Workshop



5th Year students at the IFI

1st Year Study Skills Workshop

All 1st Year students took part in the Amazing Brains Study Skills workshop on March 27th. The aim of the workshop was to give students ideas about how to study. They were shown how to break down material using index cards, mind-mapping, and identifying key words and phrases. They were also shown ways of remembering and retaining information. They finished the session by working on a study plan as they count down to summer exams. That evening the 1st year parents had a similar workshop

5th Year Spanish Film Trip

5th Year Spanish students visited the IFI in Temple Bar on March 20th for a screening of 'The Chessplayer'/'El Jugador de Ajedrez'. The group were accompanied by Ms Gavin and Ms Cantwell and the trip provided an excellent opportunity to improve their Spanish comprehension skills.



LIBRARY LIFE

World Book Day

The library was buzzing for World Book Day on March 7th with bookish activities for both students and staff to participate in. Library classes had a competitive edge as students took part in the World Book Day table quiz and lunchtime activities included 'Blind Date with a Book' and 'Match the Selfie to the Shelfie'. 'Blind Date with a Book' is an opportunity for students to discover new books they may not have otherwise encountered and is an exercise in not judging a book by its cover. There was great excitement as students selected and unwrapped their mystery books before checking them out with one of our student Library Assistants, who had a very busy day on the issuing desk! You can tell a lot about a person from what's on their bookshelf so we all got to know the OLS staff a bit better through our fun and challenging game of 'Match the Selfie to the Shelfie'. Our TY Philosophers considered why reading matters, making collaborative visual thinking displays on the significance of the books they read and staff got involved in 'Bring A Book, Buy A Book' in aid of St Michael's house. Sincere thanks to all the students and staff who helped to make the day such a success.



Winners of the Big World Book Day Table Quiz



Matching the Selfie to the Shelfie

CBI Book of the Year Award Shadowing

Our Junior Book Club have just commenced shadowing of the 2019 CBI Book of the Year Awards. The group will read and discuss five of the shortlisted titles and give a score to each. Our ballot sheet will then be submitted to Children's Books Ireland and our votes counted along with other shadowing groups from around the country. The title that receives the highest score overall will win the Children's Choice Award at the prize-giving ceremony in May.

OLS Parents' Book Club

The inaugural meeting of the OLS Parents' Book Club took place on Tuesday, April 9th, in the Terenure Inn. The group had a lively and enjoyable discussion of Sally Rooney's award-winning novel *Normal People* and have chosen *The Hunting Party* by Lucy Foley as their next read. The next meeting will take place in the same venue on Tuesday, May 7th, 7:30-8:30pm and new members are welcome. Simply email admin@olschool.ie to register your interest.



CBI Book of the Year Awards Shadowing Group



OLS Parents' Book Club





OLS Model UN



Wood You Brush



Co-Curricular Activities

Model UN

Congratulations to the students who represented Our Lady's School at the Wesley College MUN conference in March. All the girls did a great job and were wonderful ambassadors for their countries and their school. A special congratulations to Aimée Murphy who received a Distinguished Delegates award, Alisha Shanagher and Ana Cooke who received Commended Delegate awards, and Aimée Cosgrove held a chair position. Well done to all students who had resolutions passed.

Aimée Murphy, Marie Bishop, Mohana Sarwar, Alisha Shanagher, Emily Jones, Ana Cooke and Aisling Wedick represented the Democratic Republic of Congo. Ciara O'Gorman, Emma Casier, Jena Frain, Alex Lacey, and Rachel Kilmartin represented Yemen. Aimée Cosgrove was Ecology and Environment guest chair.

One Good Idea National Final

Congratulations to Maura O'Riordan, Roisin Brazil, Hannah Murphy and Rachel Li from B2 who have reached the One Good Idea National final. Their team 'Wood You Brush' has been selected as one of the 10 secondary teams to present their idea at the national awards ceremony in Dublin castle on May 14th. Best of luck, girls!

Philosophy Conference

On February 17th, 14 students from Our Lady's School along with Ms. O'Brien and Ms. Hayes travelled to Worksop College in Nottinghamshire to attend the Pursuit of Knowledge Conference. The conference was an opportunity for the students to explore different approaches to Philosophy and to attend lectures on topics such as the intelligence of emotions, climate ethics and democracy in science. At these lectures, students were exposed to complex concepts and ideology that challenged their preconceptions of certain topics. The trip was a valuable and enriching experience and in the students' own words "this conference was an experience I will never forget and it has opened my eyes to a whole new way of thinking. Philosophy is such a key part of my life now and has forever shaped my brain in a way that is open and ready to explore the world that awaits me."



OLS students at the Pursuit of Knowledge philosophy conference





Press Pass Student Journalism Awards

Congratulations to Maria Finnegan who was shortlisted for the 2019 NewsBrands Ireland Press Pass student journalism awards for her entry in the Features category. The awards ceremony took place on Monday, 8th of April in Wood Quay Venue, Dublin 2, and Maria placed second in her category for her moving piece exploring dementia entitled 'Not all those who wander are lost'.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Interschools Music Festival

Congratulations to Emma Leung who represented Our Lady's School in the Solo Classical U14 Singing Competition Power Cup at the Interschools Music Festival. Emma was awarded a silver medal – a fantastic achievement in a festival in which over 100 schools and over 2000 students compete.

Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland: Dublin Peace Proms

Well done to Leonie Redmond who, as part of her Gaisce Award, auditioned and was successful in joining the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland as a Violinist. Months of rigorous practice culminated in a series of 15 concerts called the Peace Proms which take place in venues across the UK and Ireland. The Orchestra performed in the RDS in February, playing to an audience of 20,000 people over 2 nights, and were visited by President Higgins, the German Ambassador to Ireland and other dignitaries. The Orchestra are celebrating their 25th year in 2020 and hope to make the trip Carnegie Hall in New York and the Royal Albert Hall in London.

ActionAid Speech Writing Competition

Well done to Connie Heather who was one of ten Finalists selected to deliver their speech at the national final of the Action Aid Speech Writing Competition in Dublin's Royal Irish Academy on March 20th. The standard of the competition was very high and Connie just missed out on the winning spot. Her speech on gender inequality was delivered with passion and conviction and we'd like to congratulate her on her achievement.



Emma Leung



Leonie Redmond



Connie Heather & co.



Caoilin Dunne, Amy Brennan
& Joy Ralph



OLS Girls on Winning Division One Feile Championship

Ballyboden under 14 A Camogie Team competed and won the Division 1 Feile Competition on March 30th, becoming Division One Feile Champions 2019. The team will represent Dublin in the National Championships in Cork in June. Three OLS Girls were on the team - Caoilin Dunne B2, Amy Brennan P1, Joy Ralph B1. Well done, girls!

Irish Senior Swimming Championships

Congratulations to Ellen Walshe M5 who competed in the Irish Senior Swimming Championships. Ellen won four national titles, retaining the 200 fly for the fourth time, 100 fly for the second time, 50 fly and 400 individual medley first time. She has also been selected for the Irish swim team for the World Championship in Korea in July. Well done, Ellen!

WELLBEING WEEK

The annual Wellbeing Week in OLS took place from March 19th-22nd and was an exciting week of activities for both students and staff. Lunchtime activities featured prominently with a mindfulness session, Boxfit class, basketball challenge, traditional games, mindful colouring and origami, sing along to the Greatest Showman, self-defence class and much more.

On Tuesday, students and staff got a chance to unleash their inner child and enjoyed the Bouncy Castle and slides. 1st and 2nd Year students watched Humourfit performances by Mike Sullivan on issues such as cyber-bullying and mental health. Behavioural Psychotherapist Stuart Wilson gave a talk to 5th Year students on issues such as anxiety, cyber awareness and resilience. He also gave a presentation on emotional resilience to parents on Tuesday evening.

Wednesday morning kicked off with a Daybreaker Just Dance session. Students and staff got the blood pumping in Pound classes throughout the day. TY students participated in a Jigsaw workshop on mental health. There were extra healthy lunch options in the school canteen and the Home Economics Department shared nutrition information with the whole school through a display in the GPA.



Thursday was Digital Detox Day. Students were encouraged to switch off from all types of technology and to talk face to face with friends and family. The whole school participated in a 'Mindful 10 at 10:00 am' activity. Some classes went for a mindful walk using the Slí na Sláinte route around the school. Other classes participated in a classroom-based mindful activity. Celebrity chef Louise Lennox did a cooking demonstration in the Home Economics kitchen.

Friday morning students enjoyed a fantastic healthy breakfast in St. Joseph's Hall sponsored and organised by the Parent's Council. All year groups participated in the Mile Run. The whole school attended a prize-giving ceremony in the Sports Hall in which Sene Naoupu gave a keynote address to students and staff. Wellbeing Week ended with a fun Céilí Mór. Well done to everyone who participated in the events and activities that took place during the week. It was a huge success.



Traditional games in the GPA



Pictured above: one of the beautiful posters created by OLS students for Wellbeing Week

Right: 6th Year students at the memorial mass for former OLS principal Mrs Ann Brodie

ANN BRODIE MEMORIAL MASS

Wednesday, February 27th, marked the occasion of a very special event in Our Lady's School, the memorial mass of former teacher and principal of the school, Mrs Ann Brodie. A beautiful ceremony was followed by a series of heartfelt tributes acutely reflecting the high esteem in which Mrs Brodie's legacy is held within the OLS community. Members of her family, the sisters of the RCE, past pupils, past and current staff members gathered to honour the tremendous contribution of Mrs Brodie to the school over her many years of dedicated service. We would like to thank all those who joined us for the evening. A very special thank you also to the many people involved in the planning and organisation of such an appropriate and meaningful tribute to a truly inspirational woman. May she rest in peace.



SPORT

Senior B Hockey

Well done to the Senior Bs and their coach, Ms Hallissey, who represented OLS in their league Leinster Final on March 8th. They put in a stellar performance but unfortunately lost by a goal scored by the opposition in the final minutes of the game. We are very proud of their efforts in getting to this stage of the competition and representing us so well on the pitch. Off the pitch, well done to our Trojan supporters who played an excellent game as twelfth woman!



Senior B Hockey Team

Junior A Hockey

Following an outstanding performance and 4-1 win against Rathdown, Our Lady's Junior A team earned their place in the Leinster Junior A Plate final. On Monday, March 11th the OLS Junior A squad took on The High School for the plate. OLS secured an early goal which rattled the opposition. Near the end of the first half High School found the back of the net bringing it to a 1-1 draw at the half time. OLS withstood a lot of pressure in the second half with High School gaining the upper hand with a final score of 3-1 to the High School. Congratulations to the girls on an excellent run and well deserved place in the final. We look forward to seeing these girls progress into Senior hockey at OLS. The future is bright!

Athletics

Clara Kinsella showed her class while competing at the Irish Life Health All Ireland Schools Cross Country Championships in Clongowes Wood College on Saturday, March 9th. Clara had an excellent performance in stacked field and came in 29th out of 85 athletes in the minor girls' 2,000m. The underfoot conditions were superb and the flat course saw some fast running.

Badminton

Congratulations to our Under 16 Division 1 Badminton Team who came 2nd in the All-Ireland Finals in Gormanston in Meath last month. The girls beat a team won Waterford and narrowly missed out of the victory. The girls drew 3-3 on matches to Donegal and lost by a matter of points on the day. Our players were: Sophia Noble, Maria McMahon, Eva Hassett, Julie Traynor and Laura Fleming.



Junior A Hockey Team



Clara Kinsella



U16 Division 1 Badminton Team



OLS SPORTS FACILITY FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thank you to all of the families who have contributed to our fundraising campaign to date. A strong focus on the link between wellbeing and physical activity is of paramount importance to us in Our Lady's School. We are proud of how much our students benefit from our vibrant and inclusive sporting and extracurricular culture and The OLS Sports Facilities Fundraiser seeks to protect and improve our capacity to provide this.

The aim of our fundraising strategy is to drive the improvement of the sporting facilities used by our students every day. Our initial target is to replace the astroturf sports pitch which, built in 1999, is fast approaching the end of its lifespan. This will cost in the region of €300,000.

This week the fundraising efforts were trebled as staff, students and parents went all out to boost the funds. Students took to the footpaths on Wednesday afternoon cheered on by the beautiful sunshine and completed a most enjoyable 5k. Upon return, they were greeted by refreshments from our very generous sponsors Lidl, SuperValu, Brodericks Brothers and Nature Valley. The Parents' Council played a blinder on Thursday with a most entertaining Race Night.

All donations will be gratefully received and can be made in a variety of ways, for whatever amount you deem appropriate:

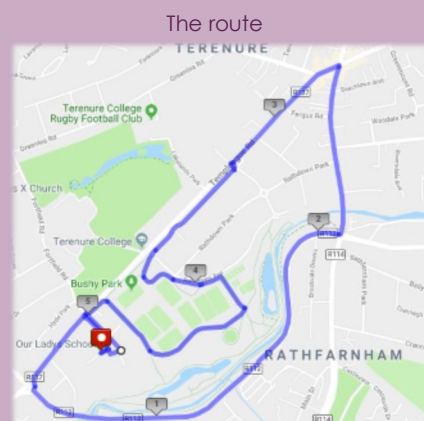
- There is a facility on Easy Payments Plus (link on the school website) to make your donation, whether it be €200 or an amount you wish to determine yourself.
- There is also a link to a GoFundMe page on our school website (click on the fundraising logo for the link).
- Alternatively, cheques may be made payable to 'Our Lady's School' and returned to Reception in an envelope.

With your financial assistance we can see the students of OLS using a new astroturf pitch within the next two years fulfilling the Our Lady's vision of offering each student the opportunity to reach their full potential.

To donate online, visit olschool.ie and click on either the 'Easy Payments' or 'gofundme' link. Thank you for your support.



The leaders



The team

The parents...

Thank you to our wonderful Parents' Council who organised a most entertaining Race Night!



CHAPLAINCY CORNER

P House Mass

On Friday, March 15th, we celebrated the feast of St. Patrick with the annual P house mass. P6 chose the theme "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way" by Martin Luther King.

The P House worked with a sense of shared commitment to organise a beautiful, thoughtful mass. The P5's made a wonderful banner and the teamwork in the class showed their commitment to the house. The fabulous choir rehearsed at lunchtime and made the P1 class very welcome at the choir practices. The choice of music and the poignant prayers of the faithful really challenged and encouraged us all to think of one small thing that we can do in a great way: something to help others reach their potential, change the future of our planet or combat injustice.

One of the final lines of the Homily read "Our Lady's School is a place where students can be leaders and I hope you will embrace this as both a privilege and a responsibility. So pick one small thing and make a shared commitment to action, because change is not about the path of least resistance but about the road less travelled, one small but great step at a time."

A huge thank from Ms. Heaphy, Ms. Nolan and Ms. Coyne to everyone in the P House for their enthusiasm and cooperation in preparing a memorable mass.



1st Year Retreat

Retreats

The second group of Transition Years made their retreat in-house on March 7th. It was a great opportunity for the girls to take time out to reflect on their relationships with themselves, others and with God. It was an enjoyable day for the students and was run by a wonderful facilitator Patrick O' Rourke.

The 1st Years arrived enthusiastically and with fluffy pillows in hand for their mini retreat on Monday, April 1st. They participated in group reflection, meditation and outdoor activities all on the theme of cooperation and friendship.



Ash Wednesday

Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday

On Shrove Tuesday everyone in the Le Chéile Council was invited to the Home Economics kitchen to feast on pancakes. For some it was the last taste of sugar for the next 40 days.

On Ash Wednesday the Le Chéile Council, still full of sugar, gathered in the GPA at 8am to have a rehearsal of the prayer service they had prepared. The students led us in prayer and distributed Ashes to the school community to mark our commitment and the beginning of our Lenten journey.



