

Our Lady's School Newsletter



Dear Parents & Guardians,

A warm welcome to the first newsletter of our school year. It has been a very busy start to the year and the corridors of our school are bustling with chatter and energy as our students immerse themselves in the life of the school. To engage the girls as much as possible and to assist their holistic development we have added lots of new activities to the extra curricular schedule. There are 2 new basketball teams competing in leagues, there is a new Junior soccer team, the 6th Years are busy with their 'non competitive' table tennis league, Robotics Club is up and running and the 1st Year maths drop in clinic assisted by 4th and 5th Year students is a big hit. Please encourage your daughter to get involved in some of the many extra curricular activities that are on offer in the school as it creates many new friendships, develops talents and promotes wellbeing.

We are placing a strong focus this year on developing student leadership within our school. The 6th Year council have been provided with extra training to assist their development as student leaders. We have introduced the Lighthouse leadership programme to 5th Year with 64 students applying for 28 Lighthouse mentor positions. These girls were also trained in how to mentor 2nd Year students. We increased the numbers on the Student Council and we are also developing the role of the class captains.

Our 6th year students were invited to their 6th Year Parent teacher meeting and both students and teachers found it to be a valuable experience. The girls were encouraged to take ownership of their own learning and to fully engage in a review of their learning and what they hope to achieve.

There are so many within our student body who give back so much to the school community. Our Student Council is up and running and have just decorated the reception area for Halloween. They have lots of ideas and plans for the year ahead and we wish them the best.

Likewise our Green Committee is a vibrant and dedicated group who are overseeing the transformation of waste disposal in the school. The Le Chéile Council along with our newly trained Eucharistic ministers assist with the spiritual development of the community. Our 6th Year student leaders are a positive group who work to enhance the wellbeing of all. We encourage our student leaders to share their talents, to be positive and to assist make our school a compassionate and caring place.

Contd. P.2

In this issue:



■ PAGE 4: LCA Tourism Trail



■ PAGE 7: Field investigation



■ PAGE 11: Basketball



■ PAGE 15: School Mass



Opening School Mass

Principal's Address Continued

Our Lady's is lucky to have the support and positive contributions from so many, not least our Board of Management. As the current BOM completes its 3 year term I thank our departing members, parent nominee, Michael Sinnott and Trustee nominees, Dr Marion Palmer and Winifred Jeffers. They have given so much of their time voluntarily for the good of the school community and it is much appreciated.

school and the daily pursuit of excellence. Please go to the school website to read the report which can be found under Documents. We will be looking at the recommendations and putting plans in place to make any necessary improvements. Many thanks to all who assisted us with this big endeavour which will assist school development.

Thanks to the Parents' Council for organising Professor Donal O' Shea to give a talk at the Parents' Council AGM on Sept 25th. The talk dealt with healthy eating and was both informative and entertaining. The staff in our Lady's appreciate the support that we receive from Parents and Guardians as we work together to ensure our students reach their full potential.

I wish all in our school community a happy and restful mid term.

Marguerite Gorby | Principal



Freshers event

The school community were delighted with the publication of the Whole School Evaluation, Management Leadership and Learning Report May 2019. We were awarded the highest level in all 4 categories, Quality of School leadership and Management, Quality of Teaching and Learning, Implementations of Recommendations from Previous Evaluations and the School's Self-evaluation Process and Capacity for School Improvement. It affirms the high standards that exist in our

Freshers event

A special freshers/1st Year event was held on Tuesday, 24th September to showcase all the extra curricular activities available at OLS for our students. The girls enjoyed a great introduction to all the super clubs on offer in Our Lady's. Some of the choices include :

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Book Club
- Camogie
- Chamber Choir
- Cross-stitching
- CTYI - The Centre for Talented Youth, Ireland programme provides educational enrichment opportunities for secondary school students (www.dcu.ie/ctyi)
- Debating
- Film Club

See the rest of the alphabet on <https://olschool.ie/extra-curricular/>



Freshers event



Freshers event

Fright Night

The annual Our Lady's School Fright Night took place on Friday 18th October from 7 - 9pm. Nearly 250 1st Year students, organising students, teachers and SNAs gathered in costume in Lourdes Hall, which had been transformed into a spooky Halloween venue inspired by this year's theme "IT Returns to OLS".

There was 2 hours of partying, feasting, dancing and inter-house competitions as the 1st Year form groups competed to be the house with the most points at the end of the night. All of this was to celebrate the tremendous fundraising that was done by 1st Year students in the lead up to Fright Night.

The charity, Wells For Zoe, is a local charity with close connections to the school. It works with poor communities in Malawi to ensure people have access to clean water and education. Last year's fundraiser raised €4700, all of which went to Wells For Zoe. It is hoped that this year even more will be raised, with each euro making a big difference to lives of Malawian communities. A huge thank you to the generous sponsors on the night who donated hampers, spot prizes, drinks and sweets.



Fright Night Fun



Fright Night catwalk

Sponsors of Fright Night

A massive thank you to our very kind sponsors who contributed generously to the raffle prizes for Fright Night :

Allcare Pharmacy, Perrystown

Biabette

Crawis Shop

Dunnes, Ashleaf

Fortfield Pharmacy

Musgraves

Nandos

Orwell Pharmacy

O'Sullivan's Pharmacy

Rainforest Adventure Golf

Seven Days

Shampoo

Supervalu, Orwell



Fright Night Raffle



Fright Night Raffle Sponsors

Library Life

Student Librarians

Our main goal in the OLS library is to encourage reading for pleasure and to instil good reading habits that enhance the intellectual and emotional development of our students. This term we appointed a team of seven Student Librarians – Isabelle Aasen, Caoimhe Brock, Ella Burke, Olivia Casey, Erin Dresser, Niamh Ward, and Casey Anne Wynne Robinson – who help us realise the vision and goals of the library. The team promotes the role and services of the library to the school community and makes a valuable contribution to the running of the library. Their duties include issuing, returning and shelving books, helping students to find books and information, recommending books, writing reviews for the library web-

site and ensuring the library is tidy, well organised and welcoming.

Library Clubs

There is plenty of choice in library clubs with Mindfulness and Calming Colouring every Monday, Junior Book Club on Tuesday, Games & Puzzles Club on Wednesday, Senior Book Club Thursday and 'Make & Do' Craft Club on Friday. Students are invited to come and participate in fun, stress-reducing activities such as wordsearches, book club reading, bookmark-making and mindfulness colouring.



Halloween craft
& book display



Book Tasting @OLS library

Reading Café /

Book Tasting @OLS Library

For the first time in OLS Library, we held a Reading Café / Book Tasting for 1st Year English classes and other years whose teachers requested it. Five tables in the library were covered with bright polka dot tablecloths, table numbers were positioned and books were laid out like a meal with tasty book options available to review on the book menu provided.

Many non-fiction and other genres were available on the tables to entice young readers to sample reading on a broader and more varied scale. Students and teachers enjoyed the novelty of accessing different genres in a new way. Many students borrowed biographies and non-fiction for the first time and some discovered that books about scary sharks were not for them!

Scholastic/Setanta Book Club

Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running. Go to <http://schools.scholastic.ie/our-ladys-5> to browse the latest books and order online. For every €1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 25¢ in Scholastic Rewards.

We would love to make this online Scholastic/Setanta Book Club a success!



Student Librarians

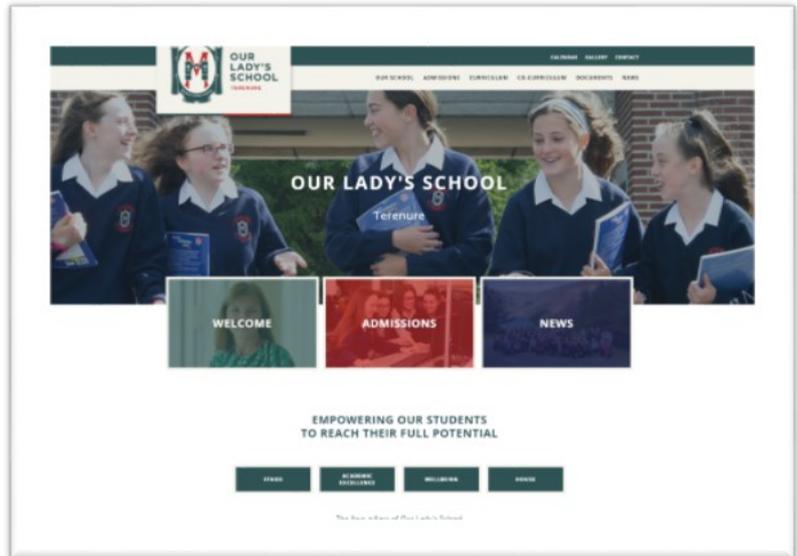


Reading Café /
Book Tasting

Website Launch!



1st Years Maths Club



Our new website (same web address - www.olschool.ie) went live in early September. Here you will find links to the calendar, Easy Payments, VShare and App Download Information (under the Documents tab). You can also access school policies, curricular and extra-curricular information and After School Study documentation. We hope you enjoy the improved layout and mobile-ready functionality!



Maths Club

X... The only letter that gets a look in every Friday lunchtime in the library.

Natural numbered 4th Years and their mathematical quarters (1st Years) are buddied up for Maths Club in the prime location of the OLS library on day V each week.

In its inaugural term, Maths Club has seen dozens of eager 1st Years stretch their mathematical minds and taste a little bit of algebra.

No challenge has been greater than the 4th Years' ability or less than 1st Years' classwork!

Come join, Y not?

Today's Maths Joke -

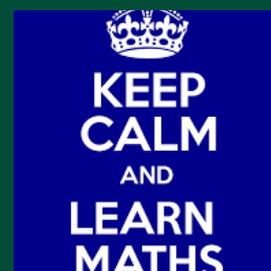
During lunchtime, between Maths Club and Tutorial...

$$\sqrt{-1} \quad 2^3 \quad \sum \pi$$

It was delicious!



1st Years Maths Club



OLS Systems Overview



VShare is used:

- ⇒ To manage all our school information, including parents' contact details.
- ⇒ By teachers to take class rolls and write reports.
- ⇒ By parents to read students' reports.

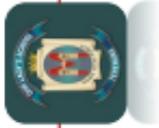
Parent action needed:

Parents receive a text from the school office with a username and instructions and follow these to create their own password for future access:



Important:

If parents change their contact details they must contact the school office to request that the VShare record is changed. VShare details feed all of the school systems so an inaccuracy here compromises the other systems.



The School App is used:

- ⇒ By parents to notify the school about student absence/late arrival/permission to leave early.
- ⇒ By parents to submit permission slips for trips.
- ⇒ By students & parents to receive notifications about school events/news.

Parent action needed:

Parents need to download the app and **register as a parent**, using the **email address and phone number** that are **on the school VShare records** for the parent.

Further App Download Information is under the Documents tab on the school website.

Important:

If a parent registers with contact information that does not match VShare records, the app will not recognise the parent and access to attendance and permission features will not be granted.

If you need to amend school records, please email admin@olschool.ie.

If you have another difficulty accessing the app please contact the app company on 01 – 8603477.



Easy Payments is used:

- ⇒ By parents to pay various school costs that arise throughout the school year.

Parent action needed:

Click on the Easy Payments icon (pictured above) on the website banner and then follow the instructions to set up a new account:



Important:

Parents need to use the **email address and phone number** that are **on the school VShare records** for the parent.

If a parent registers with alternative contact information, the system will not recognise the parent.

If you need to amend school records, please email admin@olschool.ie.

If you have another difficulty accessing Easy Payments please email password@olschool.ie.

Parents: Your co-operation in working with us to build strong communications systems in our school is very much appreciated. Links to all our school systems are at the top of the school website. Easy Payments is accessible via Shop on the App menu. If further clarification is needed, please contact admin@olschool.ie.



2019



Students carrying out field work



Geography students' field investigation

Geography Field Investigation

On Friday 13th September the 60 strong contingent of 6th Year Geography students travelled to Co.Down to carry out their Field Investigation. Undeterred by the ominous date chosen for the trip, the students and staff enthusiastically boarded the bus for the short excursion north.

We arrived at the Tollymore Adventure Centre at 9:30 a. m. and were immediately captivated by its setting; nestled in one of the many valleys of the Mourne Mountains. Following an hour or so of classroom work, we ventured to a meander on the River White. Bedecked with an amazing array of wellies, the students got to work in the river measuring and gathering data.

The field investigation is an obligatory component of the Leaving Certificate course, accounting for 20% of the overall grade. Working in teams, students measured width, depth, velocity and sinuosity together with analysing the river's load in situ and in transport. Assortments of instruments were used proficiently by the teams, including a hydroprop flow metre and turbidity meter, to gather detailed data to be analysed and plotted later.

An ephemeral Indian summer afforded us a relaxed lunch outside overlooked on all sides by the splendour of Mourne's granite range. Focus was the order of the day after lunch as we set about discussing our findings and writing up our booklets. By 5:30 p.m. satisfied with our day's work, we once again boarded our buses for a rather sleepy jaunt home to Dublin. It had been a very worthwhile day out in the field with substantial work covered.

Hospice Coffee Morning

The SNA team wish to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone for all their baking and generosity for the Hospice Coffee Morning, a magnificent sum of €418.66 was raised for the well deserving cause.

Award-Winners

Congratulations to Charlotte Gallaher , B1 who won the Hidden Hero award for raising money for the Sarah Jennifer Knott foundation in September. Through her tireless efforts she raised over €1000. Well done, Charlotte, and thank you for being an inspiration to us all!

International Junior Science Olympiad

Congratulations to Emily Aasen P4 who has been invited to participate in the National Junior Olympiad competition in DCU, where she will compete to represent Ireland at the International Junior Science Olympiad in Qatar in December 2019.

Emily's excellent Junior Certificate results in Maths and Science earned her this invitation from the State Examinations Commission. Well done Emily!



Hospice coffee morning spread



Charlotte Gallaher B1

TY News

TY Development Day 1

The 4th Years had their first Development day on Thursday, 12th September where they took part in many fun activities such as Coding, a walk in Bushy Park, and a talk about the LGBTQ+ community given by two guest speakers from Shout Out. This was the first of five development days to take place throughout the year, and according to the students, it was a huge success!

All of the classes took part in a one hour and forty minute coding class. The classes had the opportunity to try out college level coding with The Academy of Code. The students learned the valuable skill of how to code and how it is used within the workforce in the modern day. The instructor started the class by showing an informative video about well known software developers such as Bill Gates, who of course, developed Microsoft. Then, Rob assisted students in completing numerous coding games.

Another activity undertaken on the day was the LGBTQ+ talk given by the organisation Shout Out. Spencer and Stephen from Shout Out arrived in the school and were able to give each class an informative talk about LGBTQ+ issues. They started by introducing themselves and telling us inspiring stories about their journey growing up as gay men in Ireland. This sparked a wider discussion into the difficulties young people in the LGBTQ+ community face today, both inside and outside of school.

Each class went on a walk in Bushy Park. We were given a worksheet and had to look out for different types of trees in the park. It was an enjoyable walk, we learned about many new types of trees and we were able to clear our heads after the coding! Due to the unreliable Irish weather some classes were unable to take part in the walk. These classes took part in watching an eye opening documentary about our earth and some of the effects of Global Warming.

Development Day 2

The 4th Years attended their second development day Friday, 18 October. Each class participated in four different activities such as movie making, first aid, and going on a retreat. The L4's had the opportunity to take part in a movie making day. Many of the girls have mentioned how much they enjoyed the fun day! The class was introduced to the two volunteers who conducted the day, they were then told what to do and got right to work. They make four movies in total which demonstrated the key skills needed to make an epic short film! The other classes were busy enjoying themselves learning about various things that ranged from learning about understanding our traits to learn the important skill of CPR and putting a casualty into the recovery position which was a life valuable experience.





Carlingford Trip



Carlingford Trip

Carlingford Trip 23rd-25th September

On the 23rd of September nearly 120 Transition Year students embarked on the annual TY trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre in Co. Louth. The trip is known as a rite of passage for 4th Years in OLS, and the excitement was palpable - a rare occurrence at seven in the morning. The trip definitely went above and beyond all of our expectations, with endless activities and what seemed like never ending laughter filling the halls. The activities included kayaking, canoeing, ziplining, skywalk, lasertag, talent shows, crystal maze and an in-the-dark obstacle course. It was great getting to talk to people outside of our class groups, and it's safe to say that some friends for life were made during the trip.

The trip was absolutely amazing, and the high expectations set by previous years were definitely met. On the third and final morning there was definitely a sadness in the air, the trip didn't seem long enough, and everyone wanted to do the whole thing again. The trip gave us the opportunity to expand our friend circles and make memories that will last forever. A massive thanks has to go out to the teachers that came with us on the trip, without them none of it would have been possible and they did a great job keeping spirits up even when everyone was tired and groggy in the mornings.

By Louise Brennan L4

TY Chinese

Our TY Chinese students had their first Chinese culture workshop of the year on Thursday. Ms Du from the Confucius Institute of Ireland in UCD taught our girls about the history of Calligraphy in China and how to write Chinese characters. It was a wonderful experience and we are all looking forward to the next workshop in November.



TY Chinese



Edie Thorup
speaking to 5th years

Visit by last year's Head girl to 5th Years

On September 2nd the 5th Years started off their first year meeting with a visit from last year's Head Girl, Edie Thorup. Edie spoke to them about life as a student in senior cycle, passing on some invaluable tips on organisation, balancing study and relaxation and other general tips. A very positive and beneficial start to the year!

The Better Life Project

The 5th and 6th years welcomed Sarah Doyle from The Better Life Project on Monday, 30th September. She spoke to them about coping with success and failure. The students learned about keeping a gratitude journal in order to stay positive and build resilience.

LCA Tourism Trail

As part of a Key Assignment for Hotel Catering and Tourism, and Artistic and Aesthetic Education, the LCA girls visited the Dublin Wax Museum and the National Art Gallery last Friday.

As part of their first terms theme in Art - portraits- they visited the Zurich Young People's Portrait exhibition in the National Gallery of Ireland. They looked at buildings of interest on our walk from The wax museum through Trinity College to the NGI.

Hamlet

On Tuesday 8th October, 6th Year students headed to Dundrum Cinema to see the National Theatre Live performance of Hamlet. The production was intense, poignant and, at times, comical. Students thoroughly enjoyed Benedict Cumberbatch's portrayal of the complex character of Hamlet. His performance highlighted the fragility of the human psyche and the complex machinations of familial bonds and war. Here is what the students had to say... "I thoroughly enjoyed going to see Hamlet, it was a really good idea to see the real production in the cinema rather than a school production." "It was an exhilarating and immersive experience. Benedict Cumberbatch's ability to fully encapsulate the depth's of Hamlet's persona and engulf the audience in a myriad of emotions was truly mesmerising."



The Better Life Project



TY Chinese

Sport

Athletics

Congratulations to our 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year girls who competed at the Dublin Schools cross-country. 1st and 3rd Years won the silver team medals and 2nd Years won the bronze! Well done to all involved.

Active Flag

Our Lady's is one of six schools in the country taking part in the pilot project for an Active School Flag.

University of Limerick have collated our whole school surveys and returned some very interesting results. It is now the job of Active Flag class in transition year to get the staff and students of Our Lady's more active using the information they have received.

The girls are very excited to get started and will be having an Active Flag Launch week in November with lots of fun events for staff and students!



1st Year Hockey Blitz



Athletics Team

Basketball

We are delighted to have four basketball training sessions a week on this year. 1st Year and Senior Teams will compete in leagues. We have a new kit, a great coach (past pupil Kate O'Flaherty) and bundles of enthusiasm. Watch this space!

Swimming

Well done to all the girls who competed in the schools swimming last weekend, 12th October. A special congratulations to Ellen Walshe who won 3 gold medals representing OLS. The senior swim team had a great result in the 50m relay winning a silver medal. Well done to the team of Aisling Dillon, Ellen Walshe, Hannah Walshe and Ellen Ward.

Hockey

There are 14 Our Lady's teams entered in Leinster Schoolgirls Hockey leagues. All Minor, Junior and Senior League games are underway with some great results so far. The 1st years are training hard and will start their 8 aside matches on Saturdays after the mid term break.

For all hockey results please see www.leinsterschoolgirls.com



1st Year Basketball Team



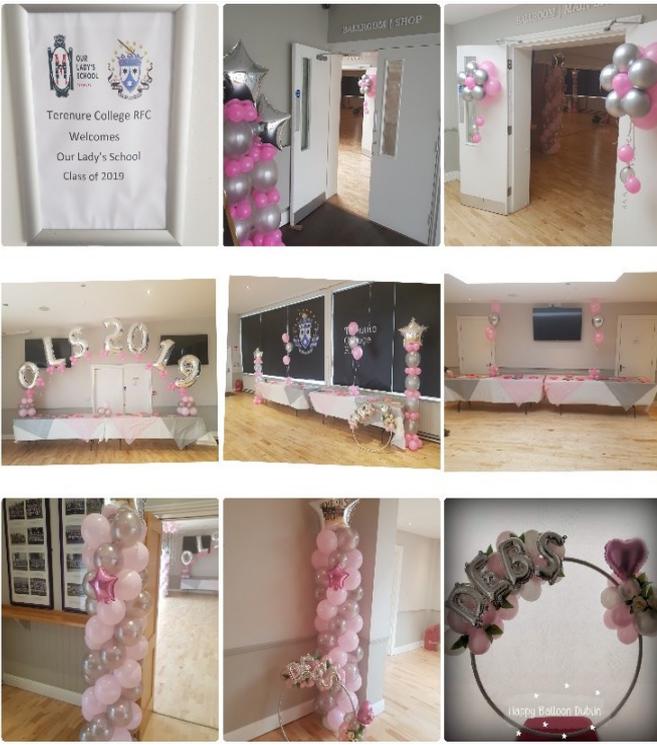
Senior Swim Team

Parents' Council

Parents' Council AGM 3rd October

The Parents' Council AGM was held on Thursday 3rd October. The Agenda included an excellent introduction and update on the school's current activities, both academic and extra curricular, followed by voting for the new Parents' representatives for the Board of Management. Chairperson of the Parents' Council, Aibhin Dunne, gave an overview of the activities of the Parents' Council for the last school year 2018/ 2019, followed by the election of new representatives for the Parents' Council.

The Key Note speaker for the night was Dr Donal O' Shea on the topic of "Healthy eating and active living in 2019". This was an excellent talk, both beneficial and informative to all who attended on the night.



Debs decorations

Debs Reception 3rd October

For the first time ever, the Annual Debs reception was held off site in Terenure Rugby Club, Lakelands, Terenure. The Parents' Council undertook to host this reception for the Class of 2019, their families and OLS Staff. The room was decorated beautifully by the Parents' Council, providing a pink and silver backdrop, with plenty of nibbles for the reception being held between 5pm and 7pm. It was a wonderful couple of hours and the glamour of the girls was of the highest standard. The girls headed off to their Debs Ball with fun and laughter and buses full of the decorative balloons, such a sight

First and Second Year Parents Coffee Morning

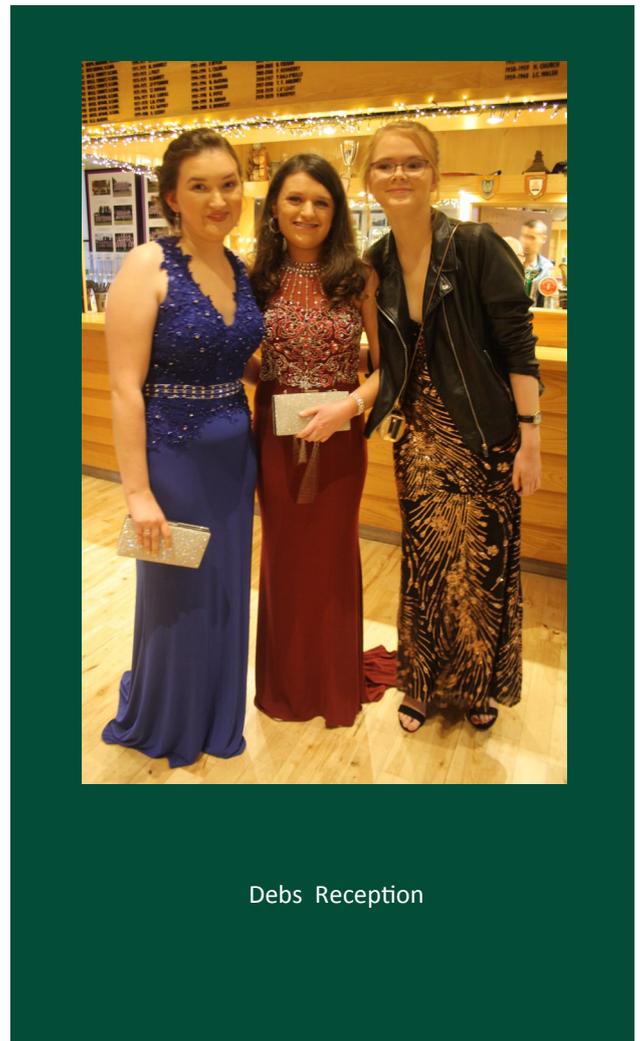
With over 70 Parents attending, a successful Coffee Morning was held for 1st and 2nd Year parents in St

Josephs Hall by the Parents' Council last Friday 11th October .

Many cups of Tea and Coffee were consumed accompanied by a variety of delicious Mr Kipling Cakes supplied by Alison Healy Burke of Premier Foods, a parent of the school.

Parents' Council

It is the ongoing intention of the Parents Council to be the link between the school and parents for the many activities the Parents Council support during the school year. If you would like to become involved to help out or support these activities, please email Aibhin Dunne at Parentscouncil@olschool.ie and we will add your email address to our growing database of email addresses.



Debs Reception



Rachel Dignam, Leah Barry
and Caoilin Dunne



Lola Atkins, Nikishi Polgolla,
Anna Webber

Study Skills for life

Study Skills Week

Study week took place in OLS from Monday 7th – Friday 11th October. There were many different activities for each year group which took place during form class. Our 1st year students attended a talk from Rachel Dignam, Leah Barry and Caoilin Dunne on the importance of doing homework and on how to make clear and concise notes. Congratulations to all the 1st Year students who entered the Design a Study Space competition.

Our 2nd Year students were visited by a number of TY students during form class who shared study techniques that worked well for them before their exams last June. The 3rd Year students attended a talk on healthy eating for healthy studying in the lec-

ture hall delivered by Ms. Surlis and Ms. Kelly.

Along side these talks, teachers were sharing subject specific study skills in their classes during the week. The form teachers were helping students from 1st to 6th Year establish their academic goals and showed them how to use their homework journals to track these goals. There were daily study skill announcements made over the intercom including a brain teaser on Thursday. Congratulations to Emma Myler in 2nd Year who was the winner of the brain teaser.

Well done to all the students who engaged with this week and to the teachers for their hard work in preparing and delivering the different classes during form time.

Student Council

Congratulations to all the students who were elected by their peers to represent their year group on the Student Council. The Student Council work on behalf of the entire school to give voice to the student body. Well done to these leaders who are taking on this advocacy role and working to improve student experiences at school.

Congratulations to our new members of the student council. After a busy two weeks of elections, the following students have been elected to represent the different year groups in the school. Nikishi Polgolla C1, Lola Atkins B1, Anna Webber C1, Emma Myler C2, Rachel Byrne P2, Anabel Flemming P2, Roisin McEvoy C3, Abbey Kelly L3, Ra-

Sara Devoy P4, Saffron Ralph L4, Sophie McGovern B4, Anna Boyle L5, Hannah Kelly C5, Ellen Reid B5, Sarah Norris M6, Jena Frain B6, Ellen Malone P6,

I have included a picture of our 1st Year reps receiving their student council badges during assembly time.

Academic Excellence

Congratulations to Anna Caslin, Class of 2019, who was awarded the Naughton scholarship in recognition of academic excellence on Saturday 21 September in Trinity College. She was presented with a Naughton medal and a financial bursary by the Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe, and Martin and

Carmel Naughton. Our Lady's is honoured to acknowledge Anna's great achievement as our 1st Naughton Scholar and wish Anna every success in her future.



Ms Gorby, Minister Paschal Donohoe,
Anna Caslin, Martin and Carmel Naughton

Co-Curricular Activities

Junior Debating

Congratulations to the junior debaters who competed in their first round of the UCD Junior Debating competition. They did very well and will be competing again in November.



Junior Debaters at UCD

Model United Nations

Congratulations to the students who represented Our Lady's School at the Terenure College MUN conference on the 27th and 28th of September. All the girls did a great job and were wonderful ambassadors for the school and their country, Indonesia. Congratulations to Emma Casier who was a guest chair and was presented with a medal for her contribution. Well done to all students who had amendments and resolutions passed.



Lighthouse Training

Higher Options Conference

On Friday 20th September our 6th year students attended the Higher Options Conference in the RDS. It was an opportunity for the students to connect directly with colleges and universities and get their questions answered.

At the event, students could also attend a range of career lectures ranging from topics such as ; New Apprenticeships, Careers with a Law degree, How to choose your career, The CAO application process and Studying in Europe.

The students left with lots of college prospectuses and hopefully some useful information that will help them with their future choices.

Lighthouse Training

On Friday September 27th a group of twenty eight 5th Years undertook training to be mentors under the Lighthouse Programme. The aim was to prepare the girls in their new role as mentors to 2nd Year students.

The girls did a number of activities encouraging them to consider what challenges might meet them and then they drew up advice for the 2nd Years. The following week the girls met their groups and received their badges. They will continue to mentor the girls during the year.

An Coiste

This year's Coiste Gaeilge is made up of 4th and 5th years who work together to promote Irish in a fun way throughout the school. They meet every Wednesday to plan activities for each term. They have already planned a number of ideas, including a 'céilí beag' at Hallowe'en for first years and a number of competitions.

This year's members are: Alisha Shanagher, Julie Traynor, Rachel Clarke, Connie Heather, Lily Raftery, Sarah Maher, Grace Duffy, Grace Anne Collins, Danielle Halpin, Katie O' Rourke, Jessie Lynch, Lorna Burke, Katherine Hesse and Hannah Fowler.



An Coiste

Activities

Home Economics

Classes in Home Economics were very busy this term. **1st Years** began their understanding of Food Safety and Hygiene and how to use various cooking equipment. They ended the term by making spooky Halloween cupcakes.

2nd Years learned about the different methods of cooking and began in depth learning about foods such as milk, meat and fish. They are ready to begin their CBA's after mid term. They also ended the term with some Halloween cupcakes.

3rd Years began the term learning about the family, consumer studies and systems in the body.

Transition Years completed various assignments, researching methods of baking and foods popular in other cultures.

5th Years started the term with the study of macronutrients: Protein, fats and Carbohydrates. They are looking forward to starting their coursework when they return!

6th Years have been busy completing their coursework journals all term. They will start into their Elective on Social Studies when they return.

Cross Stitch Club



Chaplain's Corner

Opening School Mass

On Tuesday 24th September, we celebrated our opening year mass. The theme this year was "Ni Neart Go Cur Le Cheile, There is no strength without unity". The mass was wonderfully organised by P5 and their teacher Ms Campbell. A special mention must go to the readers, eucharistic ministers, students who took part in the offertory procession, House Captains, the Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl. The mass was a wonderful celebration led by Fr McKay. It began with the initiation of 1st Years. As the 1st Years entered, all the students welcomed them with a round of applause. The choir sang beautifully and the musicians and their music teachers did a fantastic job in preparing the music for the service. It was a beautiful mass that prepared us for the academic year ahead.

5th Year Retreat

On Wednesday the 9th of March the 5th Years headed off to Ovoca retreat centre in Wicklow for our retreat. The day was really enjoyable and each of us had a chance to be active within our groups and engage in fun activities such as rock climbing, Jacob's ladder, leap of faith and more. These activities gave us the chance to put trust in each other and bond as we did the activities as a group.

Later in the day we had the opportunity to create our own country. This creative process helped us to work as a group and listen to everyone. The facilitator enlightened us to the journey he had and found great comfort in religion. This time was really beneficial as he invited us to talk about our own struggles in our lives and how we deal with them. We then had to think about solving the struggles of another person. The chat at the end of the day was my favourite part of the day as it left me thinking and questioning my own journey in life.

The day was really unique to any retreat we had been on previously. There was a mixture of active games and challenges as well as time to reflect on our own faith. The day was really inclusive of everyone and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

5th Year Student

C House Mass

On Monday 7th October, the C House hosted their house mass. This year the theme they chose was: "When life throws you a rainy day, play in the puddles."

The C6 class along with Ms Heaphy and the House Head Ms Fitzpatrick have worked tremendously hard preparing for this. They created wonderful decorations for the GPA and the teamwork they displayed on the day was outstanding. The readers, students who took part in the offertory procession and the gifts procession were excellent. Thank you to the music department and the C House choir and musicians who sang superbly. A special mention must also go to Sadbh Stassin Peelo, the C House Captain who demonstrated excellent leadership skills during the preparations for the mass.



Opening School Mass



5th Year Retreat