

Our Lady's School Newsletter



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OUR
LADY'S
SCHOOL
TERENURE

Dear Parents and Students,

We are all living through challenging times, and it is important that we keep a positive attitude and learn valuable lessons from where we are.



We need to take one day at a time, stick to a routine and try to help each other as much possible.

I am continually amazed by the goodness of character, the kindness and empathy that emerge during difficult times.

All members of our community from the Sisters, to staff, and the Board of Management have continually checked in to see how everyone has been doing.

I read a lovely letter another Principal wrote to his students, and I would like to adapt it to an Irish and an OLS context.

I ask our OLS students to reflect on the following positives from our current world:

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1. We live in a great country with a government who lead in a positive and caring manner to ensure the protection of others. We are advised to stay home for 'the love of others' and we know that we all have a part to play as responsible Irish citizens to mind each other.
2. Our youth have taken up the challenges of these times in a positive and caring manner. It is difficult for teenagers to stay cooped up at home, but you have done so recognising the importance of community responsibility.
3. During this time you have been given a once in a lifetime opportunity to spend time with your family. Now is the time to emerge out of your bedroom, sit at the dinner table, chat, discuss, debate with family members and even take out the Christmas board games to develop your relationships with parents and siblings. Usually our lives are so busy we can pass each other every day without fully engaging.
4. You also can hold out the hand of friendship to your friend group and extend it to others outside that group. Check in and see how your friends are doing. Keep in contact with them and offer your support. You have the power to be a positive influence on those around you who might need a kind thought or word.
5. There will be many times that you feel bored and restless. Recent scientific studies show that a little boredom opens up the potential for more creative thinking. Boredom can act as a push to move you into a more thoughtful or creative space. What will it be for you?
6. Pick up that book that your parents have been encouraging you to read. Reading stretches the mind and challenges you to think of others. It can transport you to another world where you can leave your worries behind. It helps you to empathise with others and of course assists the development of your vocabulary (I am an English teacher so I'm very biased here).
7. Now is the time to learn a new skill or activity. Why not take over the cooking for one day and research some recipes? Try to learn a new language or learn how to play chess?
8. Or join the OLS community in taking up the 'Believe it to Achieve it Challenge' where you pick something new to learn?
9. You will have realised the importance of leadership in our global world as you have seen the different leadership styles as world leaders try to deal with this current crisis. We need good and compassionate leaders to lead us. To lead means to serve those around you, to step up in a time of crisis and have a clear vision about where you want to go. Leadership is shown in both big and small ways. Ask yourself if you have led and if not, will you now be a leader? Have you been a member of the 6th Year Council, the 5th Year Lighthouse Mentors, the Le Cheile Council, the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Green Committee, MUN, the Coiste Gaelige and the Green Committee to name a few of our leadership teams? If not, there are so many opportunities for you to get involved and lead in our OLS community.
10. Think about all that you have learned at such a fast pace over the last three weeks. You have rapidly improved your digital skills to become a remote digital learner. You have learnt to be adaptable and adjust to the new and confining demands of life. You have had to become more resilient and deal with frustrations and uncertainty. You have had to self-manage and self-motivate to be at your desk at 8.30am and to embrace all that each day brings. When you return to OLS you will come equipped with so many new skills and abilities.
11. Finally consider all the different communities that you belong to and all the supports that are there for you. OLS encourages you to keep up with your work and keep connected to all in our community.

I wish you and all your families a much-needed digital break over Easter and I hope that everyone stays safe and well.

Marguerite Gorby

Principal

An Coiste Gaeilge & Seachtain na Gaeilge



2nd and 5th Years in GPA



1st and 6th Years in Sports Hall



Céili Mór in the Halla

Lá Labhartha na Gaeilge with its theme "Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste ná Bearla cliste" was to take place on March 13th. But this event has been postponed. For those who bought their t-shirts (an OLS exclusive created by the Coiste Gaeilge and designed by Rachel Doyle P5) keep practicing your Gaeilge for a reschedule at a later stage!

An Coiste Gaeilge organised many great plans and events for Seachtain na Gaeilge this year at OLS from March 9th through to the 20th. We started with the traditional Céili Mór on Monday, March 9th.

The plan had been to hold it on the hockey pitch, but the bad weather forced us indoors, with 1st and 6th Years in the Sports Hall, 2nd and 5th Years in the GPA and 3rd and 4th Years in St. Joseph's Hall. Despite the rain, the craic was unquenched!

4th Years also arranged activities for every lunchtime including dancing, a Treasure Hunt, Bi-ongó and Amhránaíocht...see the photos!



T-shirt celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge by Rachel Doyle P5



Students in front of the
Gooze self-Portrait

Secret Street Tours

On the 27th of February 2020, M6A went on a Secret Streets Tour of Dublin. Secret Street Tour is a social enterprise and Shane, our tour guide, walked us through the streets of Dublin through the eyes and experiences of someone who has been affected by homelessness.

Shane shared his story of homelessness with us as we explored the cultural and historical landmarks of Smithfield.

Shane also told us that as a homeless person in Dublin “you will never go hungry. Dublin people are so generous, and there are soup kitchens every night”. However, tents, sleeping bags and bags in general, are in short supply.



Bake Sale

As part of our Vocational Preparation and Guidance class, we did a module on community work. We raised money for a homeless soup kitchen called ‘A Lending Hand’ through a bake sale.

We raised over €120. The money then was used to buy hats, scarves, hairbrushes etc. for homeless people.

The soup kitchen is run every Monday evening near Trinity College.

Some of M6A visited the soup kitchen, distributed the goods and talked to the people. Having attended the Secret Street Tour, we are motivated to revisit the soup kitchen.



Chaplaincy Corner

We have had a fantastic term this school year and so much was achieved by our students and staff. Well done to all involved in maintaining the Christian ethos of the school and the implementation of its mission.

The B House celebrated their annual Mass on Monday 20th January with the theme "Be happy, not because everything's good, but because you see the good in everything." B6 chose this quote as they felt it reflected qualities they see in both the life of St Bridget and in the members of B house.

The Ash Wednesday ceremony took place on Wednesday 26th February. Students and staff had the opportunity to receive ashes to mark the start of their Lenten journey.

Retreats

3rd Years hosted Ovoca Manor for their retreat this year. It was a day filled with reflection, discussion and meditation. The students found it to be extremely worthwhile and an excellent opportunity to focus on their holistic development.

On Friday 28th, the 4th Year students had their retreat. The theme of their retreat was developing a healthy relationship with Self, Others and God. The students thoroughly enjoyed the time for discussion and reflection.

Le Chéile

Pay It Forward Day:

Friday April 3rd

Well done to all who got involved!



Reflection for Ash Wednesday



Distribution of Ash



Chaplaincy Corner



St. Vincent De Paul Committee

Le Chéile Council

The council have been busy this term updating the weekly theme displays at the reception area. They created their Lenten calendars and planned the hugely successful Le Chéile Pay It Forward Day.



Saint Vincent De Paul Committee

The SVP group had an interesting, informative talk from the Youth development office at Saint Vincent de Paul. Students learnt about the history of SVP, and the vital work SVP does to support those who need it. At OLS, our students wanted to carry the message of supporting the charity and raise awareness about the work SVP does. During our meetings, they decided to contact the SVP shop in Terenure to see if they could arrange a takeover week of the shop window.

The girls are planning to take over the shop in term 3 and decorate it with a meaningful message about climate change/sustainable fashion. I will look forward to updating you with pictures and information regarding this exciting project.

Some of the SVP Group recently took part in the 'survive on 5 challenge.' Many students around the country undertook this challenge.

The challenge aimed to think about and calculate how much we spend each day on food/drink. The students kept a diary, and their findings were that on the days where they had sport, they spent well over 5 euro. Others realised how difficult it is to keep to 5 euro per day. However, sadly this is the reality for many. Well done on the girls for taking on this challenge with the support of their parents.

Chaplaincy Corner



Guest Speaker from Operation Smile



Students planning their project.



Working with Volunteer

Operation Smile

Students had a very inspiring talk from the charity Operation Smile.

Operation Smile is an international charity that raises money for children born with a cleft lip to have the surgery to correct it. They had the opportunity to ask questions and talk about what they could do to support the charity.

Some ideas were to make and decorate surgical gowns and to make cards and write letters to the children before they have their surgery. The committee will be raising awareness about the charity over the coming weeks.

Each year group are busy coin collecting for their respective House Charities. The P House are currently in the lead with their fundraising. The Houses have been busy collating their ideas for fundraising.

Students from the Le Chéile Council and students from the Charity Committee took part in a recent workshop centred all around the volunteering they do. They created mini-community centers to help some vulnerable people in society. They then created a survey to check on what type of volunteering students in our school take part in within the school and the wider community. We look forward to analysing the results of the survey once they're completed.

Volunteering For All Award



Volunteer For All Award Shield

School Volunteering Awards



Ms. Keane and Charlotte Gallaher holding the Pramerica Spirit Award

Pramerica Spirit Award

We at OLS are delighted to announce that one of our very own, Charlotte Gallaher, has been named as one of the 20 finalists in the 2020 Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards. This a prestigious, nationwide award that recognises students who have made a positive difference and contribution to society and to their community.

Among the prominent personalities who have participated in the program are *Bertie Ahern, John Hume, Catriona Ruane, Mickey Harte, Declan Kidney, John Lonergan, Martin O' Neill, Brent Pope, Niall Breslin (Bressie), Joanne O'*

Riordan and Richie Sadler

Over the years, Charlotte Gallaher has volunteered with various cancer charities and works selflessly to help others through this cause. Only a 1st Year pupil, our B1 Charlotte is most certainly an inspiration to us all and a worthy candidate. 500 euro will be presented to her chosen charity and she will receive an engraved silver medallion. Charlotte will also be attending an awards ceremony in the Titanic Belfast Building.

Congratulations Charlotte! We are so lucky to have such an outstanding young person at our school.



Students getting ready for workshop



Students practicing Technique

4th Year Self-Defence

On the 17th of December and the 22nd of January two groups of 60 Transition Year Students participated in a Close Encounter self-defence workshop.

This self-defence workshop aims to give the students practical skills to help cope with “on the street” situations.

These practical skills make the students more aware of both their personal safety and their surroundings.

Each group found it to be an enjoyable and informative workshop. These are invaluable life skills. This self-defence programme was organised for the Fourth Year students by Close Encounters. Close Encounters run these kinds of self-defence courses in schools nation-wide.

3rd Year and 6th Year at National Concert Hall

On the 10th of March the 6th Year music class attended the National Concert Hall enjoying performances of a Mozart piano concerto and Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* as part of their Leaving Certificate Music Exam.

The 3rd year Music Students attended the National Concert Hall also to enjoy a series of performances and to help them with their upcom-



Third Years outside National Concert Hall



Sixth Years at National Concert Hall



Junk Kouture

Well done to the Transition Year students who participated in the Eastern Regional Final of Junk Kouture 2020 at the Helix Centre in Dublin City University, on 11th March. Presented by Cheryl and Emile!! The competition is like no other as it pushes second-level students nationwide to showcase their fashion creativity and innovative skills at the Helix, which promotes the importance of environmental sustainability.

Erin Fanning (Model), Jenny Leahy & Laoise Fay with 'Manhattan Popcorn' ; Shauna Toolan (Model), Ciara Clancy & Emma Kennedy with 'Smokers are Jokers' and Halle Donnelly Mahon (Model & Designer) with Halle's Kingdom of Fun Amusement Park'.

This was a great achievement for all concerned as our 3 teams were selected from over 1,300 entries to become one of the final 400 competing.

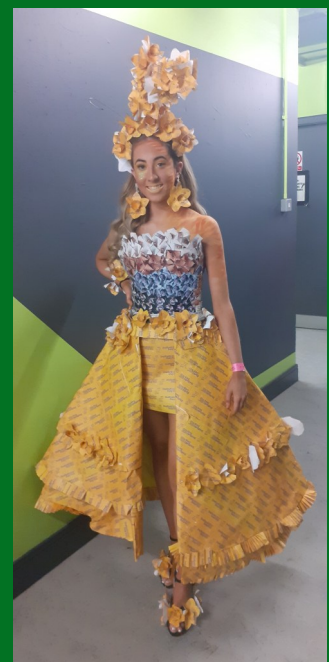
It was a tough competition and although our teams faced stiff opposition they came through in the end.



Manhattan Popcorn costume
modeled by Erin Fanning Designed by
Jenny Leahy & Laoise Fay



Kingdom of Fun Amusement Park Designed and modeled
by Halle Donnelly Mahon



Smokers are jokers Modeled by
Shauna Toolan Designed by Ciara
Clancy & Emma Kennedy

Hockey News

Hockey Minor A Leinster Champions!!

Congratulations to the Minor A hockey team, Leinster Champions of the Minor 1 Leinster League, and their coach, Ms. Kearns. They beat Loreto on the Green in a thrilling 2-1 victory on March the 10th.

We're very proud of our girls!
Believe It to Achieve It!

4th Year Fundamental Hockey

26th February a group of TYs completed their hockey Fundamental Training Course. Here are the students standing proudly holding their certs of completion next to coach Chuka Uba. Well done, girls .



Minor A champions with Coach Ms. Kearns



Transition Year Fundamental Trainers with
Secondary Coach Chuka Uba Photo taken by
Head Coach Kenny Carrol



Home Economics Cooking!

My first time to take part in a park run was back in 2017 as a volunteer in Tymon Park for my Gaisce Bronze Award I had never heard about park runs until my teacher in school told me about them. I was very interested from day one to come down and volunteer there.

There are three different types of Gaisce awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold. I was volunteering to achieve my Bronze award, hopefully. For each of the various awards, you have four categories to fill for many weeks. These include Community Challenge Personal Challenge, Physical Challenge and Team Challenge, which is an adventure.

For the personal challenge, I learnt basic sign language. For my physical challenge, I did yoga, and for my Community challenge, I took up volunteering in Tymon Park run in Dublin. I volunteered here for 13 weeks every Saturday morning starting at 9:00AM. For my dad and I it was something new to do so I decided to give it a go. For me, Tymon Park is the closest place that offers a park run.

So to get the ball rolling, I emailed park run to tell them I'm new and I wanted to volunteer with them. They were so helpful and put my name down to volunteer for the next couple of weeks. Since signing up to park run for Gaisce, I have volunteered on 25 different occasions. I am so happy to be getting my 25 volunteer t-shirt soon for the number of times I have volunteered. I have done most jobs at this stage but not all of them.

The jobs I have completed are timekeeper, photographer, finish tokens, barcode scanning, marshal, pre-event setup and volunteer coordinator.

Marshalling is when you stand at a particular point and tell people what way the race is going. It is basically to help people who don't know the course.

When you are doing the pre-event setup, you help put out the different signs like start,

finish ECT and you might also help with the food and drinks stand.

Volunteer coordinator is when you help gather more volunteers for the upcoming weeks. Someday I would love to help out and maybe be Run Director. This job was challenging because you are basically in charge of everything that day. You have to give jobs out to other volunteers, do the briefing at the start, make sure the run runs smoothly and many more jobs.

My two favourite jobs are barcode scanning and timekeeper. I like these jobs because I enjoy encouraging people when they have nearly finished the race and helping them get their time when scanning them

I have volunteered more times than I have participated in the race. I love Saturday mornings because I get to know so many people from volunteering here I am very enthusiastic when volunteering and always willing to help because nearly every week they are short on volunteers.

After volunteering or running the race, I would stay back and help them clean and tidy up. I am so proud of all my volunteering and can't wait to help out more in the future.



Thank you to Gráinne for writing this piece. It has invaluable advice to incoming TY Students, especially, who will be looking for Gaisce ideas. It's also a great example of the volunteering spirit!

Winners of the Inspirational Quotes Competition

Congratulations to the following 6 girls for their winning entries to the School Competition '*Inspirational Quotes For Our Times*'

Ciara O'Loughran P1	Winner 1st Year	<i>Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is.</i> -Ernest Hemingway
Emma Myler C2	Winner 2nd Year	<i>HOPE:</i> <i>If you only carry one thing throughout your entire life, let it be hope. Let it be hope that better things are always ahead. Let it be hope that you can get through even the toughest times. Let it be hope that you are stronger than any challenge that comes your way. Let it be hope that you are exactly where you are meant to be right now, and that you are meant to be...Because during these times, hope will be the very thing that carries you through.</i> -Nikki Banas
Abbey Kelly L3	Winner 3rd Year	<i>Instead of waiting for the storm to pass, you need to learn to dance in the rain.</i> -Vivian Greene
Caoilfhionn McGinley L4	Winner 4th Year	<i>"You can't go back and change the beginning but you can start where you are and change the ending"</i> -C.S. Lewis
Ellen Reid B5	Winner 5th Year	<i>"I am the one thing in life I can control" - Wait For It (song), by Lin Manuel Miranda, in Hamilton the musical.</i>
Maeve Joyce C6	Winner 6th Year	<i>After even the darkest night, the sun still rises brightly in our skies" Victor Hugo</i>

Hoots and Toots Easter Hockey Montage



OLS Staying Connected

We are very proud of our school community for pulling together to keep OLS running remotely since the school closure began. In true OLS style, once the challenge presented, teachers, students and parents jumped to respond. Teachers are uploading lessons, videos, audio clips, assignments and student and parent response has been superb. Google Classroom has become a very busy platform indeed as teachers and students work together, doing their best to overcome the challenges set by distance and circumstance, to keep courses on track and brains active!

We are especially proud of our exam students, 3rd and 6th Year, who are working towards their exams with very different supports and surroundings than they could have imagined for this time. Their success over the last three weeks is a testament to their maturity, independence and resilience. It has undoubtedly been a

challenging time, but we are confident, as a community, we can rise to challenges when we pull together

– Ní neart go cur le chéile.

We urge our students to stay connected over the holiday period while respecting the restrictions we have been asked, as a society, to stick to. Social distancing is crucial to our country's fight against COVID-19, and we all have a responsibility to play our part. We can support each other via phone and social media. Reach out, include your classmates and, most of all, be kind to everyone – none of us fully know each other's struggles. Remember, 'people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but **people will never forget how you made them feel.**' — **Maya Angelou.** Let's help each other feel good!

Stay positive!

Stay connected!

Stay kind!



Believe It to Achieve It: Never more relevant!

Our Lady's School Believe It to Achieve It Launch Night was postponed on March 26th in light of the school closure and current circumstances. We will be very excited to re-launch and share our vision with you when the time is right! In the meantime, never has the sentiment been more important a real belief in a cause can lead to achievement.

If you believe it, you can achieve it. We look to the front line services daily and see people selflessly going to extra-ordinary lengths for the good of the nation. We encouraged our community on Le Chéile Pay It Forward Day to show love and care for someone else in whatever way was safe and responsible for them to do so. Our chaplain, Ms Donlon, and the Le Chéile Council, one of our 5th Year leadership teams, gave us some ideas of how we could do this on the app. The response was overwhelming.

We also have, with a light-hearted intention, challenged our school community to take up a BITAI challenge for the duration of the school closure... It can be anything you want it to be from learning to do a handstand to learning a new language, from knitting to learning to play that guitar you have at home. We want as many of the OLS community as possible to get involved and challenge themselves!

Ms Phelan is aiming for a 15-minute wall squat, Ms McGinley wants to master a handstand, Ms Doran is going for 20 keepy-uppies, Ms Byrne is targeting a 5-minute plank... what will you do?

#believeittoachieveit

