

# 6<sup>TH</sup> YEARS

Have an inside look at the final term our 6<sup>th</sup> years had in OLS. (Page 6)



## OUR LADY'S SCHOOL

### MAY NEWSLETTER



## THIS TERM'S TOP STORIES

From awards, class activities, extracurricular activities, to TY events, and more, we want to tell you about everything we've been up to this term!

## A BIG THANK YOU

We went to extend our gratitude to all involved in keeping the school running smoothly in Covid times. (Page 43)



## **Disclaimer:**

Please note that some of the images included in this newsletter were taken prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Any photos taken this academic year follow our Covid-19 protocols, such as mask-wearing and maintaining social distance.



## PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

### Dear Parents and Guardians,

This stop start academic year has raced to an end in a sudden spurt. Since the students' return to the school building the whole school community has been extremely busy making up for lost time. Your daughters have brought a strong positive focus to their studies which has to be admired. We have all learned so much about ourselves and the world around us over the past challenging years.

#### OLS Covid Lessons

##### 1. This Too Shall Pass

Those of us who are older and have many experiences know that life can be a bit of a rollercoaster and that difficult times will pass, we just have to be patient to get there.

##### 2. When Challenges come your way look them in the face

Covid has challenged each and every one of us in ways that we each individually only know about. We have learned that these challenges have to be faced so that we can move forward. Due to necessity this year pastoral care was at different times of the week for class groups which challenged our House model. In true OLS style staff and student leaders faced the problem, went back to the drawing board and created a new covid friendly version of House. We really believe House was as good if not better than any other year.

##### 3. Science is a fascinating area of study

We have been awed by the level of scientific knowledge that we have all gained over the past 2 years, from understanding different virus' to decoding the meaning of PCR tests to knowing the name of the Chief Medical Officer (Tony Holohan). The accelerating roll out of the different vaccines are our route back to normality and we all must acknowledge that in an unprecedented historical feat these vaccines were created, tested and validated in the fastest length of time ever. Science classes are now more relevant than ever!

#### 4. Collaboration is key to Success

We have all realised that we are far stronger and much more productive when we work together. Our school sports fundraising campaign is a fine example of this as the whole community got behind us to assist us raise the full amount of the pitch in a very short time.

#### 5. Change is a Constant

Life has become everchanging and instead of seeing this as a negative we should embrace it and see how it can help us all. We have all had to become more flexible in how we do everything from learning remotely to wearing masks in the classroom. This flexibility will stand to us as we become a little more resilient with the passing of time.

#### 6. Our Community is a strong and kind one

My lasting memories of these past two years will be the kindness that I have witnessed and heard about in our school community. The letters written to nursing homes, treats left for other, a kind word, a random act of kindness, a kind note left on a desk , litter picking in our community, are some of the numerous benevolent acts that happen in our school and it is really a joy to behold.

So as this year ends we finish on a note of hope and reflection. The vaccine will allow us to remerge into a new world where we place greater value on many things we once took for granted.

When I reflect on our school community I see that many have achieved so much this year despite the challenges. We have all grown personally and continue to have growth mindsets. In OLS we know that our basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work as our brains and talents are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a developing resilience which is essential to allow us to accomplish our goals. Our students and staff will enter the next academic year with a shared sense of purpose to create a warm educational environment where our students flourish.

Finally I would like to wish you, your families and our extended community a safe and happy summer.

Marguerite Gorby

Principal



Marguerite Gorby

# STUDENT UPDATES



## First Year Reflections

### Online Learning:

“Online learning was met with excitement at the beginning. There was no need to walk to school nor wear our uniforms. We used our own devices or the school kindly provided some for people that needed them. The classes were the same just on a computer screen, we stuck to the same class timetable as we would in school. When we had P.E we still kept active by going on walks or doing challenges. Everybody in school tried to keep us motivated from the teachers to the student council. Every week there was a new challenge like photo competitions to step challenges. The Inter-house rivalry continued as much as it could online. I particularly enjoyed when the teachers introduced breakout rooms on Google Meet as it gave us the opportunity to interact with our classmates. As the weeks went on I began to miss school more and more but was delighted to hear when the government announced that we were going back to school after Easter. When we went back to school there was such a warm welcome and it was like we never left.”

-Lucy Somers M1

### My Final Term:

“First year was definitely different than expected! Although we didn’t get to do most of the activities other first year classes would have done, Our Lady’s put in a huge effort to make our first year in Our Lady’s as positive as they could! Teachers, the staff members and older year groups have all helped to make first year as enjoyable as it has been by hosting lots of activities throughout the year such as numerous House Competitions against other houses in our year, Active School Week, lunchtime games and competitions and lots more! Many first year students including me learned how to play hockey during lunchtime and after school! Lots of new friends, funny memories and happy moments were made this year that won’t be forgotten! Even though first year was very different, Our Lady’s have made first year a lot of fun and certainly unforgettable.”



-Gwen McDermot B1



## **A Final Goodbye From our Head Girls and Sports Captain...**

### **Leaving OLS**

“OLS has been my home away from home for the past 6 years, and can I just say, what a crazy journey it has been. Since my first day here, I have loved the people here, the happy faces in the corridor, the laughs that can be heard from the other end of the school and just the overall fun of school life. This is mainly thanks to the wonderful house system here and yes, B house is undeniably the best house- it’s even in the name! We are graced (excuse the pun) with the absolutely fabulous form teacher Ms Heaphy, and we all have made so many amazing memories together as a group.

I have so many memories in OLS that I will remember forever, a few of those being all of the incredible trips we went on (especially China), the talent shows and the ceremonies. I clearly remember my younger self sitting in the middle of the GPA or sports hall living my best life at all our ceremonies and never failing to shed a tear or two. I felt a part of something which is the wonderful community here in OLS.

The thing I’m definitely going to miss most about OLS is the people. The people here are the most exciting, enthusiastic, positive, amazing, (wait a second till I think of more adjectives), fun and incredible people, from the staff to all the students - especially my fellow 6th Years. I was so lucky to get such an amazing and enthusiastic bunch to spend my time in OLS with, I really couldn’t have asked for a better group. Our year were lucky enough to have the incredible Ms. Kinsella to be our year head/school mom and we’d really have been lost without her :)

Being Head Girl has been the craziest experience ever and one I definitely never expected. And from there it all started, the random jobs, the nerve wrecking speeches and most importantly, all of the fun. It's definitely one of the best things I ever did. It really and truly has been a fabulous experience, full of fun and opportunities. Thanks to all the staff and students who have supported me along the way. Best of luck to Julie and the new council- I hope she enjoys the role as much as I did.”

-Grace Duffy B6

“Being Deputy Head Girl has allowed me to make the most of my last year here and hopefully leave OLS knowing that we, as the sixth year council, have done all we can to make school as enjoyable for everybody as possible ! While the role was always busy I got so much enjoyment out of it and would definitely recommend it.

The House system in our school is really special. I’m in L6 (the best house - there’s no denying it!) Our form teacher in L6 is the fab Ms.Murphy who we have been blessed with since first year. Her constant support and reassurance has been a guiding light throughout the 6 years.

I have so many happy memories from OLS from Geography jokes, talent shows and nearly everything from the China trip. These are definitely some of the highlights and some of the funniest moments that I can remember.

I will definitely miss the OLS spirit the most when I leave. The atmosphere at inter-house events is unbeatable.It’s really something special that we have here in OLS that I will definitely never forget! Teamwork, hard work, perseverance, and most importantly this year, resilience, are only some of the things that the past six years have taught me. I know my time here at OLS has been not only academically beneficial but also has provided me with skills that will be valuable throughout my life. I want to thank everyone who helped and supported me on my OLS journey. I wish the incoming 6th Year Council all the best for a successful final year in OLS. Best of luck in everything you do and I know you’ll do an absolutely fantastic job!”

-Anna Boyle L6

### OLS Sports

“Our Lady’s offers a wide range of extracurricular activities including a diverse range of sporting activities accommodating for all types of students. There is also an array of unique clubs and activities off the sports field! I believe this is important as it gives us the opportunities to make new friends and express ourselves in every way possible. Thanks to the staff who give their time so generously.

Next year, when restrictions are gone and the sports and extracurricular activities return, I strongly urge everyone to get involved in as much as possible. As a result of Covid, I believe we all learnt the importance of the little things in life, and to take care of our physical health as well as our mental health. This year was the first year of our new Amber Flag committee. They illustrated the importance of mental health and how it is OK not to be OK. The Active School Flag group also worked tirelessly to keep us active and connected during remote learning, challenging us to new step competitions and lots more.

Lifelong friendships are formed through extracurricular activities even for shy, timid first years, like I used to be. Camogie in OLS has always been the highlight of the school year for me, but first



year was my first introduction to hockey. After finally figuring out how to hold the stick and endless hours spent at training, making new friends and developing new skills, I am proud to say that I am now playing at the highest level of hockey OLS has to offer.

OLS has given me the most amazing experiences and memories to bring with me. I have made so many amazing friends through sport. I urge everyone to get behind your new Sports Captain Orla and be as involved as much as you can next year, because in the famous words of Michael B Jordan “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.”

-Amber Finnegan P6

## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Graduation



On Friday May 14<sup>th</sup> we held our 6<sup>th</sup> Year graduation. It was certainly different from years before but with the enthusiasm of their Year Head, Ms. Kinsella, the technological vision and creativity of the Religion teachers, Mr. O’ Donnell, Ms. Murphy and Ms. Donlon, and with the support from the whole school community it was just as magical. Our 6<sup>th</sup> Years were welcomed into school by a guard of honour made up of 5<sup>th</sup> Year students and teachers. This is a tradition usually reserved for a retiring teacher but after the year they have endured, they deserved the applause. Following this they had a celebratory breakfast. First year students added their thanks by creating a card for each of the 6th Years. After break there was a whole



school assembly where the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Year council were welcomed in and given their badges. The Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl and Sports Captain gave their final speeches of the year, they were fantastic! Awards were also given out, well done to all those who won. All of this happened while following Covid guidelines as the assembly was held on Zoom for all years bar 6<sup>th</sup> Years. Following this the 6<sup>th</sup> Years had their 6<sup>th</sup> Year Graduation ceremony where they received their Graduation booklets, watched their Grad video and took part in the outdoor hat throwing (the most important part). We want to wish all our 6<sup>th</sup> Years the best of luck in their upcoming exams and their future endeavours.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Awards



Grace Duffy B6 received the Ann Brodie Award. Mrs Brodie taught in Our Lady's for 33 years and was Principal for 16 years. This award acknowledges a senior student who is a credit to Our Lady's and who has reached her full potential during her time in the school.



Connie Heather B6 received the Father Carey Cup. Father Carey was Chaplain to our school for many years. This cup, presented in his memory, is given to a school leaver who has displayed high standards of public spirit, integrity and commitment throughout her whole school career.



Lauren Turner B6 received the Paul Cullen Cup. This cup is in memory of Mr Paul Cullen, father of Mrs Lyttle, who was for many years a member of the Finance Committee of the Board of Management. This cup is awarded for services to the community.



Jennifer Hanrahan C6 received the Orla Kearney Trophy. Orla Kearney was a past pupil of Our Lady's, who died, after a long illness, in the summer of 1996, prior to receiving her Leaving Certificate results. This trophy is awarded in her memory. It is given to a student who, like Orla, has striven for excellence in all aspects of her life both inside and outside school.



Isabelle Halligan P6 received the Cathy Gray Trophy. This trophy is presented in memory of Cathy Gray, who died in a car accident whilst a pupil of Our Lady's. The award was presented by the Gray family in memory of their daughter. It goes to someone who exhibits qualities of friendliness, warmth and light-heartedness, qualities which epitomised Cathy during her years in school.



Grace Anne Collins L6 received The Sinead Harty Trophy. This award is in memory of Sinead, a pupil of Our Lady's who, after a long illness, died when she was in 5th Year. It is given to the student who has consistently shown qualities of honesty, loyalty, courage and truth in all her dealings with people.



Ailbhe Boyle L6 received the Sandra Brady Trophy. Sandra was also a pupil who died during her school career. This award is given to a student 'who has met the challenges of school life with good humour and determination.



Ali Herbert L6 received The leading Light Award. This new award goes to the senior student who has shown great leadership, positivity and community spirit and by doing so has emulated our school values and ethos and has encouraged others to do the same



Amber Finnegan P6 received the Sports Person of the Year Award. This award is to acknowledge and reward a student for outstanding contribution to sport during her time in OLS. This student has been involved in hockey, Gaelic football and of course our ever competitive rounders leagues, however she has particularly excelled on the camogie pitch, and has been an integral member of the team during her 6 years at the school and has had great success over these years.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Planting

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Year leadership team planted a cherry blossom along with some inspirational words at the end of term. It was a great addition to the school and a way for 6<sup>th</sup> Years to make their mark on the school especially with the year they have had.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Rounders Final



Well done to the 60 6th Years who entered the summer rounders league. The 7 teams played some fantastic games with some exceptional batting and fielding skills. The final was played on May 11<sup>th</sup> between 2 teams from B6. Well done to the 'Bbeasts' of B6 who won a very competitive final.



## Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Year Council

Congratulations to the 5th Year students who have been chosen for next year's Council. There is an excellent tradition of student leadership in Our Lady's and our incoming Student Leadership Team have big shoes to fill! They have already made a great start by participating with positivity and enthusiasm in their first leadership training course.

We wish Julie and all her team the best of luck in carrying out their duties next year.



Next years council is as follows:

Head Girl: Julie Vaughan

Deputy Head Girl: Sarah Devoy

Sports Captain: Orla O’Toole

B House	C House	L House	P House	M House
<b>Shona Kelly (HC)</b>	<b>Roisin McDaid (HC)</b>	<b>Emily Hickey (HC)</b>	<b>Lorna Burke (HC)</b>	<b>Saffron Ralph (HC)</b>
Sarochinee Ashe	Roisin O’Neill	Louise Brennan	Maeve Roynane	Katie Lett
Katherine Hess	Sarah McLoughlin	Caoilfhionn McGinley	Christina Cullinan	Hannah Fowler
Sinead McCloskey	Bhevini Punchoo	Niamh Foran	Laura Dunne	Sophie McGovern
Noor Huda Nadeem	Aoife McCarthy	Aoife Gillespie	Ava Power	Jessica Merriman
Aoife Campbell	Aislinn O’Shea	Becca Hurley	Sarah Gleeson	Alice Carroll
June Polgolla	Niamh Murray	Catherine Galvin	Lily Ryan	Isabella Cahill

Addressing the school for the first time at final assembly on the last day of school.



Head Girl: Julie Vaughan



Deputy Head Girl: Sarah Devoy



Sports Captain: Orla O’Toole

# THIS TERM'S TOP STORIES



## Alice Carroll- Young Economist of the Year 2021

Well done to Alice Carroll in 5th Year who is a gold medal winner at this year's Young Economist of the Year 2021. She has been shortlisted for a special category award for her project; an investigation into the Economics of the Art Industry. The project examined how high end art is priced, questioned the market structure it operates within, analysed its relationship with sustainable development goals and whether or not art investment increases in times of recession.

Well done Alice!



## Ms. McHale's 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Home Economics Class

Ms. McHale's second year Home Economics classes were busy this term finishing their Cushion Covers for their CBA 1. Well done girls. Everyone made an excellent effort!



## 1<sup>st</sup> Year Award Ceremony

On Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of May we held our 1<sup>st</sup> Year award ceremony. Like all aspects this year this ceremony was slightly different due to Covid. All classes stayed in their rooms while the ceremony took place on Google Meet and their form teachers had their awards ready to hand out in their class. Well done to all the 1<sup>st</sup> Years who won awards.



## Sponsored Walk

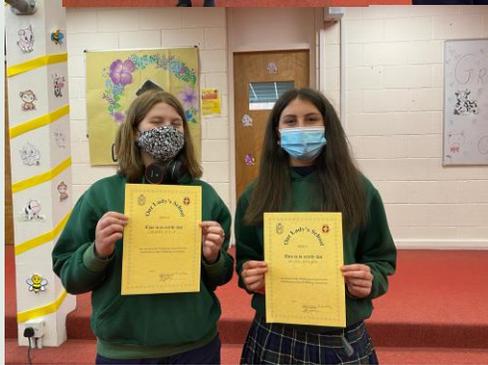
This term our students took part in a sponsored walk to raise money for a resurfaced pitch. In true OLS spirit it was met with great enthusiasm, as you can see from our mascot photos! A big thank you to all those who sponsored our students and to our students for walking. Fingers crossed we will have the new pitch by the next academic year.



# End of term Prizegiving

On the last day of term May 28th we held our annual end of term prizegiving. This term was no different and we had numerous awards to handout in recognition of all the tremendous work carried out by our students throughout this year. Including acadmic achievements, sporting and personal achievements. Well done to all the girls who won awards it is a great achievement and well deserved.





## Transition Year Activities:

Our TYs have had a busy term between their TY interviews, Hikes, Zooms with different, work experience, competitions and day trips.

### Hike

“On Thursday the 6th and Friday the 7th of May, the TYs went for a hike in the Hellfire Club.

The P’s and the L’s went on Thursday while C and B were in Zip-it, and then vice versa the next day. In the morning we travelled via bus to the bottom of the Hellfire Club. We completed two loops throughout

the day, the Forest Loop Trail and the Montpelier Loop Trail. We did the Montpelier trail first and

stopped at the top by the Hellfire Club for a break and to film videos for a competition. We then carried on to the Forest Loop trail, where we stopped and had our lunch. After we completed the trails we ended our hike with surprise hot chocolate! We then all piled back onto the buses and traveled back to the school for the end of the school day.”

-Caitlin Smith and Emma McGrath P4



### Zipit

“On the 6th and 7th of May, the TYs took on Zip-it. We made our way up on the buses and arrived in the forest for an early start. We were equipped with our harnesses and gloves and we were then given the safety demo. After our safety demo, we were then free to work our way around all the different courses. We started on the green course and then some of us managed to work our way up to the blue course. We had a great time zip-lining and being with our

classmates, and we would all

love to go again someday in the future! Afterward, our classes went to St.Enda’s park for lunch, we got to enjoy the lovely weather and had an amazing time sitting in the sun. It was a great day!”

-Caolin Dunne B4 and Heidi Eggen L4



## **Careers Expo Night**

“In March 2021, OLS hosted its first online Careers Expo. The Careers Expo was an online event for 4th and 5th Year students, organised by the careers and guidance department. Students were invited to join a number of online Google Meet presentations that were presented by experts and professionals from a wide range of professions. Some of the professions included law, communications, medicine, psychology, and business. The talks provided brief insights into that profession. They were very interesting and informative. My favourite was the talk about law because this is the career sector I would like to work in. The speaker gave loads of useful information about how she got to work in this sector and what it was like. The speakers talked about the exams they had to take and where they went to college which was very helpful and will influence what and where I study in the future.”

- Abbey Kelly L4

## **Internet Safety Workshop**

“On May 5th, the TYs took part in an internet safety workshop. In this workshop, the speaker mentioned the many dangers and risks of using social media and discussed how to stay safe online. The talk was very informative for us young people as we are very active on social media. It was very important for us to learn how to stay safe while using social websites.”

-Lauren Duffy and Ellie Kearns B4



## **PEATA project**



“This year many students got involved in the PEATA Education Programme. PEATA is a charitable organization that strives to educate people of all ages and backgrounds on how to look after and properly care for their pets and animals. This year the PEATA team asked some of the TYs in Our Lady's to help write and create an education program to educate primary school and Junior Cycle students on the importance of pet care and education. The PEATA Education representative gave each TY student a strand to work on, and educate people about.”

-TY Journalism Class

## UCD Engineering project

“TYs also got involved in an engineering competition with UCD this term. This competition required us to make a bridge that could hold a lot of weight or a catapult that could fling an item in a far direction with minimum equipment. I was in a group with five other girls and we decided to make a catapult.



We made this by only using rubber bands and lollipop sticks.

We were able to fling a rubber off of this catapult and make it travel over three meters!

Unfortunately, we didn't win the competition but we were still very proud of our creation.”

- Abbey Kelly L4



## Active Consent Workshop

“The Transition Years took part in an Active Consent Workshop with their form classes in March 2021. This workshop talked about the importance of consent in all relationships. It was an interactive workshop so the students engaged in conversations and discussions about different scenarios. They also took part in different online surveys to share their opinions. They also were able to see the opinions of students from other schools all around the country who were the same age as them. The workshop was really fun and informative so the students benefited greatly from engaging in this workshop.”

- Abbey Kelly L4

## Irish Aberdeen Angus Competition

“On the 15th of April, the previously successful team in the Certified Irish Beef competition had their semi-final interview. The team was Beatrice Rath, Caoilin Dunne, Sian Conlon and Maria McMahon. We had done a lot of preparation for the interview and we were ready for each question we were asked. We were delighted with how it went. This competition has been a great experience throughout 4th Year and we hope to continue our cattle journey.” The group were highly commended by the judges and were given a plaque to honour that. Pictured from left to right is Caoilin Dunne B4 and Sian Conlon P4 with the plaque.

- Caoilin Dunne B4



## Work Experience Week

“Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions, many people were unable to find work experience so they attended an in-school work experience alternative. It was still just as fun and beneficial and it taught us a lot about personal skills that we can use in the future. Those who did manage to get work experience worked in places such as supermarkets, pharmacies or stayed at home and took online courses.



On Monday we had a talk from the DSPCA via zoom. This was a really enjoyable talk, and we learned a lot about the history and day-to-day runnings of the DSPCA. We learned about all the work this charity does for animals and the different careers that you can work with animals such as a vet or a zoo worker. It was a beneficial and interesting talk and experience.

On Tuesday we attended an online program run by Move-2-Be. This was a program university encouraging girls to enter and stay in sports. They also discussed many very important and relevant issues like menstruation in sports, motivation, and confidence. This was a worthwhile course and it was amazing to see such a relevant and interesting course for teenage girls in Ireland.



On Wednesday we got to attend some virtual tours of cultural sites. We attended 3-D virtual tours of the Natural History Museum, The Louvre, and Yosemite National Park. These were really interesting tours and we all learned so much. All the tours were 3-D immersive, virtual reality, almost like we were there. We had a Google Form with questions about each site to answer so we had to hunt for different facts and pieces of information in each cultural site. We also had a lesson on how to write CVs and Cover Letters in English class. We had the opportunity to learn tips and tricks on writing CVs and had the opportunity to re-write our CVs as a class. It was a really interesting and worthwhile experience.

On Thursday we joined the "Cork International Film Festival's Intinn Youth Film and Mental Health Programme". This program took place for four hours. Over this, we watched a film based in Tallaght, Dublin surrounding the life of a young girl experiencing a wide range of difficulties in her life. After watching this film, we watched an interview with the creators and actors and another interview which broke down the significance behind the film. We learned a lot about teenager's struggles with mental health. This was a really enjoyable workshop as it gave time for discussions about what we had watched with our classmates.

On Friday we talked about Junior Achievement. The talk was about one's career path and how to achieve success in your career. We learnt all about the ways of the workplace and how to enter all areas of work. We learnt about the speaker's career path so we could see a real-life example. This was really interesting and benefitted us greatly.”



-Caitlin Evoy P4 and Abbey Kelly L4

## **Zumba Lauren and Ellie**

“This year in PE, we took part in a Zumba Class. Fortunately, the weather has been very generous and we could take part in the activity in the sun. It has been a great opportunity to go out and get some fresh air, have a laugh with friends and stay active. Carla has been a bubbly, energetic instructor who has made us enjoy every moment of fitness this year. The talk was very beneficial for us as young people.”

-Lauren and Ellie

## **First Aid**

“We spent the day in Lourdes Hall and completed the First-Aid course at the end of this term. It was a really enjoyable day. We learned about all parts of what one should do in an emergency and how to help people. We learned how to adapt to different conditions and be able to identify different types of conditions and situations. We also learned how to do CPR. We worked with partners to learn about the recovery position properly and effectively. We got the opportunity to use dummies to practice doing CPR. They had a special clicking mechanism and LED lights to make the experience more realistic and the learning more effective. By the end of the day, we were all officially CPR certified. After lunch, we learned about common events that would require first-aid and household dangers. We all learned so much.”



-TY Journalism Class

## **Gaisce**

“Every year in TY, a selection of students participates in the Gaisce event. The event is completely voluntary and is aimed at students who want to improve their personal skills and get involved in their local community. In order to successfully complete the project, you must take up a personal skill, participate in a sport and help out your community in some way. This year, because of Covid, the event was set up a bit differently. The majority of the Gaisce participants signed up to the St. James’s Hospital programme which helped the community service aspect. They were asked to research dementia and present their findings on a slideshow and teach it to the year. Overall, the girls who partook in the event said it was a great accomplishment and wouldn’t hesitate to recommend it to the younger years. Since there is less academic pressure in TY, it is the perfect opportunity to do it and achieve the Bronze medal.”

-TY Journalism Class

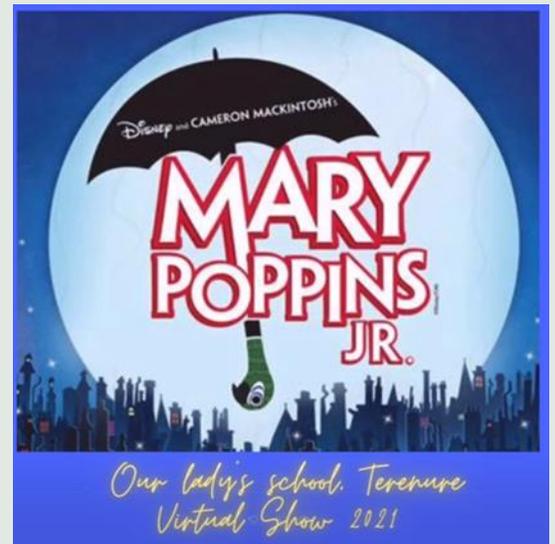
## UCD Virtual Tour

“This year, the TY’s attended a virtual tour of UCD. This tour took place on Tuesday, the 13th of April. Each class watched the virtual tour in their classes on a zoom call. This tour was great as it gave us an insight into college life and the vast campus of UCD. The tour guide was a student in UCD and throughout the tour, he showed us the different buildings on campus such as the Cinema, the swimming pool, the gym and the different facilities that UCD has to offer. One of which is the James Joyce library, along with the many other libraries on the campus. UCD libraries also offer free tutoring and grinds for maths. Overall, the virtual tour was a great experience for all TY students and we thoroughly enjoyed it!”

-Rachel and Susan

## School Musical 2021

“As many of you know the Transition Year musical looked a little bit different this year but we took the news with a spoonful of sugar. For those of you who haven’t guessed it yet the musical this year was ‘Mary Poppins Jr.’ With the help of Ms.Blake, Ms.Reilly, Ms.Nolan and Ms.Finnegan we managed to get our year to step in time and put together a strange but enjoyable production. The process all began in May 2020 when the auditions were moved online during the first lockdown. It was a new experience for all of us but as Uncle Albert says there is nowhere else to go but up. Still unknowing of what musical we were actually doing, we spent the summer waiting for our curtain call. The return to school was an exciting one and when we found



out what musical we were putting on, we thought that anything could happen. At the beginning we were not practically perfect to say the least but winds do change and we were suddenly super(califragilisticexpialidocious)!

After Christmas the threads of our show started to ravel undone and right before our eyes we were given news that sounded quite atrocious. We took the change with a cheery disposition and something was brewing and

about to begin. We may have been a noisy, mischievous, troublesome class but with a bit of brimstone and treacle we linked our elbows and got to work. Some minor improvements did not go a miss as online school was not a walk in the park. All that it took was a spark, then something as plain as an ‘online production’



became a wonderland. All we had to do was look anew then we understood why it's a jolly musical of Mary. The news made our days grey and ordinary but the teachers made the sun shine bright. In the end, we managed to play the game and have a ball. Every task the class had to undertake came out a piece of cake! Lastly, we would like to thank the enterprise class and all of our teachers for putting up with our tommyrot all year.

Nowhere is there a more happier crew than the TY's who sang chim chim cheree chim cheroo!"

-Amelia Blanchfied Ryan C4 and Carrie Strahan P4





# EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## Hockey

There was great excitement on the 26th of April as the First and Second year hockey players of OLS took the pitch again. 135 students have taken part in after school training every week since then. It was wonderful to be back in action and the improvement in everyone’s skills over this short time was remarkable to see. We also managed to fit in a traditional “Hoots and Toots” session for our 6th Year players as a last hurrah for them on the current OLS pitch. We look forward to seeing them



again for a “Past v Present” match next season. Wishing all our hockey players a happy, healthy summer. We can’t wait to see you all fit and ready to hit the ground running on our snazzy new pitch next year!



## Library



The Library's main aim is to encourage reading for pleasure among students and staff and make it a part of their normal everyday life. This is held in high regard in the OLS community.

The library was back open again this term after being closed for some time last term. It took no time for the library to be in full swing once again. Reading classes were back up and running, where students came down in small groups during their English classes and checked out new books. Lunch Time Clubs have been underway and students have been enjoying some mindfulness colouring, Word Searches, Sudoku and our junior and senior book clubs.

This term 4<sup>th</sup> Years along with some 2<sup>nd</sup> Years took part in the 2021 Drop Everything and Read on April 30<sup>th</sup>. This involved students stopping what they were doing and reading for twenty minutes. This was a huge success and students thoroughly enjoyed taking a break from their usual routine.

Our student librarians were straight back to work at the start of term and their tasks included relabeling some books that needed some extra love, doing the daily issuing, returning and shelving. As well as helping other students find books and keep the library clean and organised.

“Being a student librarian is a great thing to sign up for as it is a lot of fun and you can sign up with a friend! If you become a student librarian some of the jobs you may do are to shelve books, scan books or around the holidays you get to decorate the library! You won't be doing this alone as our librarian and other student librarians will be there to help you.”

-Teagan Brock L1

This year has been an eventful one for sure for the library! But we continued to stay up beat and keep the library the hub of activity that it is. A big thank you to this years student librarians for all their hard work this year!

To the left there is a picture of a few of our student librarians from this year.

To keep update on all library activities, and for some summer reading suggestions make sure to keep an eye on our website.

<https://ourladyslibrary.wordpress.com/>



Ingrid Marron C2, Aoife McEvoy  
L2, Rebecca Harper P4

## Club Gaeilge

“The Coiste have been very busy this year despite being online for 3 months. This year we had to be especially creative and innovative.

We were delighted in September to hear that the theme of this school year was “Ní huasal ná íseal ach thuas seal is thíos seal”. It refers to life being full of ups and downs and fits this year perfectly! It is included in our seanfhocail notice board where seanfhocails were carved in old Irish script.

We didn’t let moving online stop us! We had a very exciting Seachtain na Gaeilge in March with a virtual Céilí and daily challenges. We organised a St Patrick’s Day Quiz which was on the app for everyone to try.

In March, the Coiste also took part in the Dúshlán challenges, which were organised by Conradh na Gaeilge, where you had to try to complete 30 challenges in 50 hours! We were in groups of three and had lots of fun trying to complete these challenges.

At the start of term we painted our Coiste mural! We chose the seanfhocail “Ní Neart go cur le Chéile” which means there’s no strength without unity. This year especially, it was really important for us as a school community to stick together even though we were apart. This mural can remind us of this.



The highlight of this year was definitely the Lá Labhartha Gaeilge in November. It was great as it got the whole school involved and excited about it. We had 4th, 5th and 6th Years wearing our custom T-shirts and lots of teachers and students using their “cúpla focail”. It was great to see



so many students and staff making a big effort.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our Friday meetings, in school and online, bliain iontach gan dabht!

Working with the Coiste this year has been an amazing experience. It was made up of 16 members, both 4th and 5th Years. We each had our own role on Coiste but worked really well together. It was a great opportunity to talk to new people and make new friendships. It helped us all in developing our leadership skills, communication skills and organisational skills. Leadership is vital in meetings and when running events. It was important to make sure that everyone was involved and included. We needed good communication and organisational skills when working in groups and running activities. We often had to liaise with teachers, students and year heads to ensure everything ran smoothly.

I’d like to acknowledge the fantastic support of Ms Kinsella throughout all our efforts. We’d also like to thank Ms Gorby and the staff for their support in all the work we do and allowing us to actively promote Irish in the school.

Míle buíochas,” -Julie Vaughan P5. Cathaoirleach, An Coiste Gaeilge

## The Amber Flag Committee

Well done to the Amber Flag Committee who were awarded the Pieta House Amber Flag in early May this term. The Amber Flag is awarded by Pieta House once a school has; audited the mental health provisions and identified strengths and areas of improvement, made two changes to raise awareness in the school community, held a mental health awareness day and organised fundraising for Pieta House.



### Our aim:

This year we wanted to promote positive mental health in school and break the stigma that surrounds mental health issues. We wanted school to be a place where the whole school community feels they can fully express their feelings while having the comforting reminder that support services are widely available. The school acts as a community that supports each other in good and bad times.

### The Committee:

The Amber flag group was led by a group of sixth year students, but each form class has their own rep whose role is to promote the positive message within their class.

### What we did this year:

We revamped the rooftop garden and made it into a colorful, welcoming space. We cleaned up the space, painted it, planted some flowers in each of the House colours so it really represents every member of the school community. We included some mixed planting to represent the staff. Each sixth year student received and planted plantable bookmarks during Mental Health awareness week and these wildflower seeds are now flowering in the garden. 5th Year students sent a student questionnaire about the various supports in the school. TY students helped tidy up our outdoor spaces seeing as we are spending more time outdoors this year. The raised beds were weeded and new wildflower seeds and bulbs were planted. 3rd Years sent packages to staff in nursing homes. Each class has a rep who volunteered to represent their class and promote the aims of the group. 6th Year reps talked to the 5th Year classes about overcoming challenges

including poor motivation and low self esteem- they showed two Aware videos and followed this by group discussions. We held a photo competition every week in the dark days of Winter for each year group to send in happy/sunny photos The winning entries have been put on the app and on our new notice board. A notice board was added beside the garden to display positive messages, the winning photos and any advice/helpful services available. The 5th Years have designed a poster to go in every classroom that explains the amber flag initiative and includes some helpful tips and supports available in regards to positive mental health.



## **Student Council**

“The Student Council has been working very hard this school year trying our best to make Our Lady’s a better place for everyone to enjoy and we have accomplished a lot in doing so.

In September at the one of our first meetings the biggest issue that we encountered was that many of the students did not like our current school tracksuit bottoms for P.E. The Student Council decided that was one of the main issues that we were going to focus on this year. Throughout the year the Student Council has gone back and forth with Arnotts trying to get a more suitable tracksuit bottom for everyone. After many months of discussions we are happy to say that from the next academic year Our Lady’s will have new and improved tracksuit bottoms. As the weather was so cold the Student Council also talked to the school's management team and due to this all students were allowed to wear their P.E tracksuits everyday-not just on their P.E days. This meant that all students felt warmer as windows and doors were open due to Covid-19.

October was a very important month for the Student Council as it was the first time that OLS Student Council registered with the Irish Second-Level Students' Union and we received remote training from them also. We really hope that this becomes a yearly tradition in the school.

In December to wish everyone a Merry Christmas the Student Council organised a doughnut for every student and teacher as a token of appreciation for all their hard work over the first term back. The doughnuts were a big success throughout the school and everyone thoroughly enjoyed them.

From January to March school was online and the Student Council's goal was to make everyone feel as included as possible in school life. Everyday for two weeks the Student Council had a daily challenge for the student body. The winners won a Just Eat voucher and the challenges were a major success. We loved seeing everyones creative images and videos.

As a Student Council we knew we wanted to give back to a charity that we believed in. We chose Breast Cancer Ireland as our charity as it is has helped so many people and families all around the world. Lockdown wasn’t going to stop us supporting them so on the 12th of March the Student Council held a coffee morning with their class on a google meet where they played games and chatted. The coffee morning was a huge success as Our Lady’s raised over 1,700 euro for Breast Cancer Ireland.

More recently, we have been working behind the scenes on a possible school trouser to be introduced as part of the school uniform. As with the PE tracksuit bottoms, we are in conversation with the school management team, Arnotts and the entire student body to hear their opinions on the different options. We have also taken on board student feedback in relation to soap in the bathrooms, hand sanitisers not working in some rooms and we have conveyed these messages to Mr Walsh who has been a great help to us this year. He also fixed the blinds in the PE prefab for us alongside many other small problems we brought to him throughout the year.

During the last week of classes we organised a surprise for all of the students to lift their spirits before their exams. Every student received a chocolate bar during pastoral care class and we also provided chocolates

for the staff to thank them for all of their hard work, kind words and encouragement throughout this difficult year.

The Student Council are very proud of what we have achieved this year. We wouldn't have been able to achieve as much if it wasn't for Ms.Campbell's guidance and enthusiasm in helping us bring all of our ideas to life. It also wouldn't have been possible without the school's management team, who were happy to listen to any of our ideas no matter how crazy they were. Thank you to all of the students who made us aware of any issues in the school so that we could try and make improvements. Also a big thank you to everyone who participated in our activities. Next year we look forward to making more positive changes in our school and to continue to be the voice on behalf of the student body.”

-Ella McCabe and Saibh Gormley



Image: 5th Year students receiving their chocolate bars before their exams.

## Our Lady's, Our Voice Podcast

This year, we have had a great time creating OLS's first ever podcast club. It has been a great adventure, and the podcast club have discovered the value of their voice throughout OLS's wonderful school community. So far this year, we have created two fantastic episodes for everyone to enjoy. The first of these episodes talked about a range of topics - this included tips and tricks for life in lockdown and a very informative discussion about Asperger's syndrome.

This term, we have been really busy preparing our second episode! During this second episode, we interviewed some of our amazing school-leaders and teachers here at OLS - Mr Rhatigan, Mr Mallen and Ms Healy. During these episodes, we chatted about the ever-changing nature of education, we also spoke about different college courses, the benefits of studying a language and much more! We also have a lovely discussion about how to improve your morning routine, how music can help you to stay focused and some common conditions that students can experience.

You can tune in to all of the podcast episodes on the school app. We intend for these episodes to provide you with new tips and tricks, while also having a bit of a laugh!

Ms Ryan and Ms Cassidy would also like to say a massive thank you to the TY podcast club - Susan Cook, Rachel Brennan, Caitlin Evoy, Roisin Evoy, Ashleigh Finn, Shauna Finn, Laura Fleming, Abbey Kelly, and Casey-Anne WynnRobbins. You have all worked so hard to create engaging and creative content for the school community to enjoy. Well done! Also, a big thank you to Mr Rhatigan, Mr Mallen and Ms Healy for taking the time to answer our questions!

Here is the link to our Sumer podcast, give it a listen and we hope you enjoy!

<https://olschool.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/OLS-Summer-Podcast.m4a>



## Wellbeing in OLS

Wellbeing had a great year in OLS for 2020-2021. We celebrated so many people in so many ways, both in school and remotely during the start of 2021.

Stand Up Awareness Week and #ComeIn was our first big event of the year. This year's celebrations were bigger than ever before and our Human Pride Flag was out in force on #ComeIn Day. We have also established an LGBTQ+ Club to encourage and support students to be who they are and/or learn to be the best allies they can be. Remember, "Come In So Nobody has to Come Out."



Some of our students also took part in a survey about cycling lanes in our area. The girls made posters about what cycling should look like in our local area with the aim of adding more cycle lanes around. Their posters went to the Local Council and were featured in one of their meetings. Cycling is a great form of exercise and can be hugely beneficial to our mental health. Well done to Julie Traynor P6, Róisín McGrane L1 and Eimear Boylan L1.



Following Adam's appearance on the Late Late Toy Show, every student in the school received 'A Hug For You' to remind them that even though this year has been challenging, there will always be support for you here in OLS.

Wellbeing Week was a huge success in March 2021. We had 5th and 6th Years in the school building while the younger years were still engaging in remote learning, but

we made it work! Each day at 10am, we were put through our paces by Dublin camogie player, Niamh Gannon with her super 10@10. We also took part in a bake-along, zumba, boxercise and meditation. 6th Years came out to the astro pitch for a silent disco at lunch times and we also had a class kilometers challenge won by B5 who completed a whopping 582km over the week. Well done B5. A special thank you to the parents council who treated the 5th and 6th Years to chocolate on the Friday of Wellbeing Week. The students and staff are so grateful to you.



A huge congratulations to Ms Kinsella and the Amber Flag Committee and team members who made OLS history by being awarded the Amber Flag in May 2021. This is an incredible achievement and we want to thank all involved for all their hard work throughout the year. The committee put a huge focus on the wellbeing of our staff and students and made the school a much happier place. We are all looking forward to getting into the zen garden next year and you have really kept us smiling.

Wellbeing is so important here in OLS, remember you are always welcome to be who you are, find your tribe and celebrate being you! Here's to a great (and well) 2021-2022!



### Saint Vincent de Paul Charity Group

“The SVP Charity group in Our Lady’s had another great year this year. Despite the Covid restrictions, we still managed to run some really successful and beneficial charity events throughout the year. There was a great response from students and staff alike and everyone was keen to get involved and participate. We met as a group every Thursday during lunch time to plan and research possible charities to support and events students could actively participate in. Our aim for the year was to raise awareness for SVP and other charities that do amazing work for people in need.

Our first major event was the Gifts to the Crib which took place before Christmas. This was a huge event that required careful planning and preparation. We asked each year group and the OLS staff to bring in various gifts that could be donated to a number of charities such as: Saint Vincent de Paul, Temple Street children's hospital, Crumlin children's hospital and Saoirse Women's Refuge in Tallaght. The response was amazing and we were able to bring happiness and spread joy to many children and people struggling during the Christmas period.





Our second major event this year was the SVP clothing drive. This event was another great success. As a school community we donated over 200 bags of clothes to St Vincent de Paul. The optimism and participation from students, parents and staff alike was amazing and SVP were thrilled with our donations. It really was such a wonderful example of the whole school community coming together to help others. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your generous donations.



Next year the SVP charity group plans to organize many more charity events than ever before. We hope to expand our group so that we can be bigger and better than ever! Our aim is to help as many people in need as possible and change the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.

We do hope everyone will get involved and as always we welcome new members!"

-Róisín McDaid & Niamh Murray C5  
SVP Charity Group



## Green Schools

“Green schools is a student led initiative that promotes sustainability within the school. We strive to spread information on topics such as recycling and pollution. This year, even though we were online, we still managed to help students live a more eco-friendly lifestyle. In an effort to promote proper use of the recycling bins we had installed last year, each green school member gave a presentation to their form classes. They wrote about the materials suitable for each bin and emphasised the importance of proper recycling. This was definitely worthwhile as we’ve noticed students effort’s to care for the environment. We are excited to continue with our plans next year. Remember to reduce ! reuse! recycle!”

-Hannah Murphy, B4

"Despite the restrictions and lockdowns, the OLS Green Schools committee had a very successful year. Litter and waste management around the school was our top priority this year, with surveys, presentations and school wide litter pick-ups being held around the school. We have investigated areas around the school where litter is most prevalent, and organised clean up days at lunch to encourage good waste management among students. Although we couldn't hold our Action Day this year as planned, we will be organising our next Action Day this September, and hope that everyone will be involved."

-Róisín O'Neill, C5 (Chairperson of Green school)

A School Litter Pick up on May 10th.



## School Magazine

This year, students produced a publication made up of short stories, poetry, photography, news stories, and personal reflections. Based around the theme of 'Winter', these pieces incorporated aspects of the long December



and January just gone, but also the metaphorical Winter of rolling lockdowns and remote life. Created over the course of months, both in and out of lockdowns, the publication is a testament to the creativity of Our Lady's students and a showcase of the school's talented writers. You can find the publication on our school website.

## Winter



Our Lady's  
Student Publication  
2020/21

## The Active School Flag Class

“The Active School Flag class had a very successful initiative throughout this year. Everyone really enjoyed the Walkway Week, Lockdown Challenges, Summer Sports and everything in between. It’s been a fantastic year. The class has really enjoyed the Active School Flag initiative and they hope that everyone else has too. They have successfully achieved their goals of creating a more active environment within the school community. Don’t forget to stay active over the summer !”

-Abbey Kelly L4

## Lighthouse Programme

The Lighthouse programme was a great success in OLS this year. This is an inter-year leadership and mentoring initiative which connects fifth and second year students. At the beginning of the year, interested fifth years applied for the programme and following a very competitive selection process, thirty students were selected to be mentors. The Lighthouse mentors participated in a leadership training day where they learned tips and tricks to connect with their younger counterparts, and how to be a positive role model. Each fifth year was then assigned a group of five second years, and they visited them for a break time chat once per week throughout the year, providing a listening ear, giving advice and just being a friendly face! The fifth years organised a small party for their mentor groups at Christmas time and exchanged gifts. At the end of the year, the Lighthouse committee coordinated and led a full Pastoral Care lesson for the second years, themed around team-work, well being and building positive connections. Activities varied from Kahoot quizzes to treasure hunts to completing laps of the Active Flag walk. This programme is a very valuable additional layer to the OLS pastoral care system, so a big well-done to the Lighthouse committee and the coordinator Ms Kearns for their hard work throughout the year.





## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In September we were worried that annual services and religious activities would have to be postponed due to restrictions. However, what we achieved this year proved our commitment to the celebration of our House structure and the religious ethos of our school. Since January we have celebrated three House Ceremonies, A Lenten Ceremony and a Graduation service. The *Le Chéile Council* and *Interfaith and Cultural Group* really rose to the challenge of online learning and created wonderful opportunities for connection and reflection.

### **M House Ceremony**

January brought with it a joyful celebration of the M- House created by Ms. Donlon and M2. This may be a small house but the determination, group effort and good humour shown by these ladies led to a magnificent celebration of all that is good in this small but mighty house. The theme they chose was “**You can’t stop the waves but you can learn how to surf**”. They took their inspiration from their Patron Saint, St. Muireann, who showed resilience in her ability to adapt to change.

It is often said that with the new year comes new changes and opportunities for growth. With this in mind, the M House took up the challenge to create “Happiness calendars” for the month of January. They gave themselves a task per day to find joy, whether it be for personal benefit or to make someone else smile.

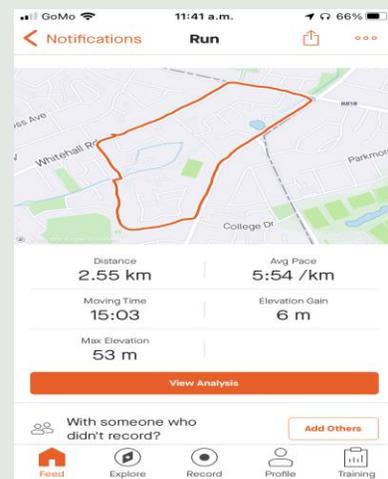


The 6th Year council offered words of comfort from St. Paul, Philippians 4:6-7

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

House members were encouraged to hold onto faith and ask God for Guidance. Further encouragement came in the wise words of Miss Hallissey, M House Mentor. She told the story of *Pollyanna*, a girl who always found the positive in every situation. This uplifting celebration ended with “I’m Still Standing” by Elton John which reflected the attitude of this positive group of ladies.

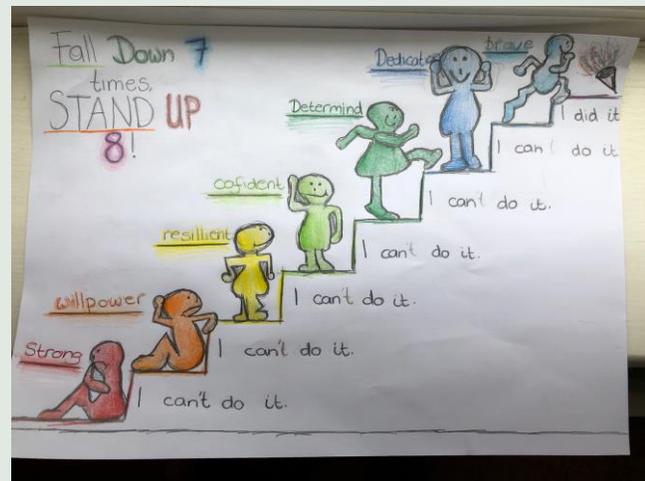
Some activities they followed were to start your day the fresh fruit way, go for a run to keep yourself fit and happy and a random Act of Kindness to make someone else smile.



### B House Celebration

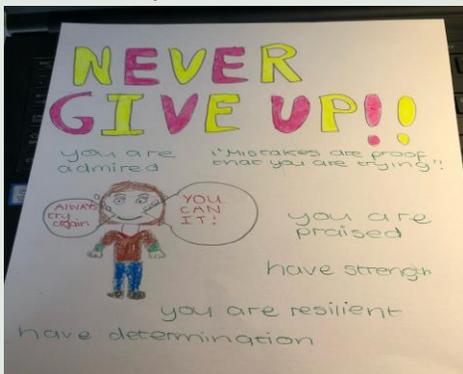
Love was still in the air after our celebration of St. Valentine. This theme was carried into the B House Celebration which focused on self love and perseverance.

B6 chose a Japanese proverb - “Fall down seven times, stand up eight” as the theme for their ceremony. As the lockdown became more challenging, the B6 class acknowledged the level of difficulty everyone was facing and the amount of bravery needed to endure these unprecedented times.



In order to keep themselves busy and their spirits high, members of the B House

illustrated their interpretation of the theme. They chose Lydia Foy, an Irish transgender woman who is known for leading legal challenges in relation to gender recognition, as their modern day example of a resilient person who “fell 7 times, stood up 8”. Foy went through a 20 year court battle to have her gender legally recognised by the state and changed on her legal





and differences in this united world. We researched the multitude of heritages within the school community and printed coloured flags each one signifying a different heritage in the school to hang in reception. Lorna Sheehan created a Kahoot quiz and this was played in religion classes during the week. A lunchtime scavenger hunt kept many of the junior students busy in order to win the edible prizes. It definitely tested the 1<sup>st</sup> years' knowledge of the school building to find the flag before identifying the county it belonged to. Daily intercom prayers and reflections were read in different languages throughout the week. Emily Aasen (P5) read in Norwegian, Asya Carr (L1) in Turkish, Mariam Hassan (L6) presented her Happy Eid message in Arabic, Dulanga Liyanapathirana (C2) read a poem in Sinhala and finally Sophie Semenova (M1) concluded our week in Russian.

We really enjoyed being part of this group and have already made plans for next year. Anyone from 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> year is welcome to join in September when we rename it "The Culture Club".

*God has made all of us alike, yet different in so many ways.  
People in our school come from different backgrounds.  
Many of us have different customs and speak different languages.  
Each and every one of us has a different way of reacting to any given situation.  
We should show respect for all those who have entered our lives  
and accept them for who they really are--Children of God."*

- Emily Aasen P5 and Catherine Galvin L5

### **The Le Chéile Chaplaincy Council**

"The Le Chéile Chaplaincy Council are the faith leaders in our school. It is a student led faith group that commits to sharing and celebrating the Catholic ethos of our school. Members of this group help to create meaningful services and organise many school events.

When we began remote learning we were worried that all the activities we had planned for the new year would have to be postponed. However, we were assured by Miss Coyne at our Zoom meeting that we would find a way.



Hopeful messages and reminders to stay positive during lockdown, were designed by the council. A

Google Slide folder was sent to Ms Ronan and each day she put one of our hopeful messages on the school app. We feel this helped motivate students on days when their bed seemed like the desired place to be. Our Council understood that everyone had different experiences during lockdown, so daily messages were something we felt we could create in order to keep spirits high.



The idea of a Book of Hope was presented to the Chaplaincy Council by Sister Cara, and during these difficult times, we thought what better way to bring light into the darkness. We loved the initiative and soon became very enthusiastic about participating. The Book of Hope is a digital presentation, composed of quotes, lyrics, songs and pictures that have been submitted by students, teachers and past pupils. This is a book based on Faith, hope, courage, resilience and self-care and we aim to launch the idea at the end of the school year.

I personally loved being part of the Chaplaincy Council. It gave me purpose and acted as a point of focus in school, aside from academic work. I was given many opportunities to represent the Council and to express my own ideas. I think this group is a vital part of the school, as it focuses on the Christian elements of the community, along with inclusivity and thoughtful actions.”

-Sarochinee Ashe B5

### **Prayer Service**

On our return to school in April, each class in the school participated in a prayer service to remember those we have lost. At the end of the service each student was invited to tie a ribbon on a tree branch as we said prayers.



