

Our Lady's School

## VALENTINE'S DAY AT OLS

See how we the Charity Committee celebrated Valentine's Day this year.(Page 24)



## OUR LADY'S SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 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!

## TY UPDATES

Check out what TY's have been up to this term (Page 14)





## **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,**

#### Dear Parents & Guardians,

18th February, 2022

We approach the mid term break with a renewed energy and a greater sense of hope as we see changes that are gradually occurring as covid restrictions are lifted in wider society. We all look forward to hearing from the government about their plans for the lifting of restrictions in schools. The administrative team has contingency plans in place to alter the school building in line with any government guidelines. Despite the mammoth task ahead we are all energised by the prospect of returning our schools to a world where students can work together in groups, be involved in active learning and engage with each other without the restrictions of social distancing and masks.

We are delighted that we have been awarded government grants which will really enhance school facilities. The summer works grant will allow us to replace all the windows in the old building (built in 1953) and should assist decrease our rising energy costs.

An Bord Pleanala awarded planning permission to the school in 2018 for a state of the art sports dome. The school has been working behind the scenes to put in place a financial package to build the dome and we are heartened with the award of a  $\in$ 150,000 Sports Capital grant This will contribute in part, towards the construction of our eagerly anticipated sports dome providing world class facilities including three full size basketball courts, 2 futsal pitches and an all purpose sports pitch.

We would like to thank the Religious of Christian Education who are a constant support to the school and have also assisted us with this project. At a cost of over €1.5 million the sports dome represents a large financial commitment on behalf of the school. We look forward to the support of the parent body as we endeavour to offer our students the very best facilities to aid their holistic development.

We are hopeful that we can begin construction in the coming year and will update you further nearer the time.

3rd and 6th year students have applied themselves exceptionally well during their mock exams over the past 2 weeks. Following the government announcement about changes to LC 2022 we altered the 6th year mock papers to reflect the changes allowing our students the best opportunities to prepare for their June exams. TY students are currently engaging in a variety of work experience and community care placements and we eagerly await to hear how they got on.

4th year students continue to prepare their musical Matilda whilst both 4th and 5th years are collaborating with Terenure College in a production of High School Musical. We look forward to seeing these productions in the last term.

We wish our Minor A, Junior A and Senior A hockey teams the very best of luck in their respective semifinal matches after the midterm break.

A reminder to ensure that you are aware of the CLASS programme that runs at lunchtime and after school and to ensure that your daughter is availing of all the necessary additional supports where she needs them. The programme is constantly changing as we access different services that we can avail of.

The link to the schedule is attached here.

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Best wishes to the whole community for a well-deserved rest over the midterm break.

Marguerite Gorby

Principal

Marguerite Gorby





#### A Message from your Head Girl and Sports Captain..

This term school life was as active as ever. The Coiste Gaeilge started their 60 day challenge, the amber flag held a photo competition, the charity committee raised money for the Irish heart foundation and now there are sports for all every lunchtime. It's great to see so many of our students getting involved in all of

these fantastic activities.We have been fortunate enough to have been able to invite a few professionals into the school to give us talks about their careers. So far we've had a social worker and a general nurse in to tell us all about their lines of work. This is a great insight into the working world. These talks run during lunchtimes and are a great opportunity for us all. Aswell as this, 3rd and 6th years sat their mock exams so a huge well done to them. We hope you enjoy the well deserved midterm!

- Julie Vaughan & Sara Devoy P6



#### **Sports News**

This term, we welcomed all our extracurricular activities on the new hockey pitch! It was a delight to have this new wonderful addition to our school.

Congratulations must be given to Laura Potts on her success in making the National Performance Pathway Squad and the best of luck to Laura with her swimming!! This term brought about a new activity 'Sports for all', run by the junior council. There is a wide range of activities every lunchtime for everyone to avail of! Well done to everyone involved in the West Leinster Schools Cross Country Finals and best of luck to the girls going on to represent OLS in the Leinster Schools final.

Past pupil, Ellen Walshe has had the honour of being nominated for the Young Athlete of the Year, the awards will take place this Saturday the 19th February in UCD astra hall.

The first year hockey teams are now competing in the Leinster League and we are delighted to have our Minor A's, Junior A's and Senior A's in the semi finals of the Leinster league, best of luck!! Try to get out and show your support from the sidelines!

A very successful term and I am looking forward to the official opening of the hockey pitch with Minister Martin when we get back!!

-Orla O'Toole L6





#### **First Year Reflections**

We asked our First Year students about what they have been up to in OLS this term. Here's what they shared:

#### My Time in OLS:

This term we had lots of hockey matches and we played against different teams, Laura Potts won a 100m backstroke in swimming. We started to play basketball matches this term. In English class we watched Little Women. We celebrated Clodagh, Lucy and Isabelle's birthday! We did a practice Irish CBA and we all got a chance to present. Keelan participated in a cross country and won a medal. In PE we did loads of fun activites my favourites were badminton and volleyball. We are enjoying the wide variety of extra-curricular activites here in OLS.

- Kate McKevitt P1

This term we played our first hockey league matches against Muckross Park College and Alexandra College. We wrote speeches in English about different topics, this was practice for our CBAs next year. We played soccer and volleyball and in P.E we got to design our own games. We are really settling in to our new school.

- Ruby McCabe L1





#### Goal mile

Some of our Senior Cycle students were out bright and early on St. Stephen's morning for the Goal Mile in Terenure College. Well done to the Our Lady's and Terenure College students for organising a fantastic event with lots of festive cheer and raising money for a worthy cause. It was great to see some familiar faces out there, thank you and well done to all who ran, walked, supported and donated!





#### **Athletics**

Well done to all our athletes who participated in the West Leinster Schools Cross Country finals in the Phoenix Park this term. We had a Silver Sweep, winning 3 silver medals. Roisin Hanley Byrne finished 2nd In the Minor girls' race and both the Minor and Inter girls' teams placed 2nd and will now represent OLS in the Leinster schools final. Congratulations to all involved!



#### **Cross Country**

Well done to our Cross Country team who braved the storm on Wednesday at the Leinster Schools Cross Country. Our Minor girls team had a gutsy performance in tough conditions to finish 9th and our Inter girls team embraced the mucky course and finished a fantastic 8th place. We will begin training for track and field after midterm. All welcome!









#### Laura Potts

Congratulations to Laura Potts P1 who has been selected for the National Performance Pathway Squad as a result of her peak performances. Best of luck to Laura with her future swimming competitions.



#### Sports for All is here to stay!

Starting this term at lunch time, there has been a variety of sporting activities and games to play every lunch time. The starting game was dodgeball! Students were ready to dodge duck dip dive and dodge. There were also lots of other activities to grab and go which included: Giant connect 4, giant X's and O's, beanbag target throw and much more.



#### Ellen Walshe

Congratulations to our past pupil Ellen Walshe who has been named The Irish Times and Sports Ireland Sportswoman for December for her significant swimming achievements. Given her stellar performances in the pool this year, it is no surprise that our past pupil Ellen Walshe has been nominated for Her Sport 'Young Athlete of the Year'.



#### Junior & Senior Camogie

The Junior and Senior camogie teams were delighted to get their first run on the new astro pitch during lunch this term. It was great to see so many of the girls participating in sport at lunch time and getting involved!









#### The BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2022.



Excitement was building at Our Lady's this term as we celebrated two students who made it to the final of the BT Young Scientist, Emma Killian and Rachel Heather, well done girls! Their projects were:

Rachel Heather M3 :Does the geometry and brand of a shuttlecock affect its trajectory?

Emma Killian P3 : To investigate the use of essential oils as a means of decaying plastic?

#### **Sports Capital Grant 2022**

We are delighted to announce that Our Lady's School has been awarded a €150,000 Sports Capital Grant by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and the Media. This will contribute, in part, towards the construction of our eagerly anticipated state of the art sports dome providing world class facilities including three full size basketball courts, two futsal pitches and an all purpose sports pitch. There will also be changing rooms, a sports office and a dedicated PE seminar room. These additional facilities will also enhance mental and physical wellbeing for the community.

We would like to thank our Board of Management and the Religious of Christian Education congregation for their commitment and dedication to this innovative project which will offer our students access to a top of the range sports facility.



#### **Swimming Success at the Leinster Schools Competition**

Well done to the OLS swimming team on their fantastic performances at the Leinster Schools competition this term. A special mention must go to our medal winners.

The relay team of Ruby Marley, Laura Potts, Zoe Browne and Eva Walshe won a silver medal in the 200m freestyle relay and a bronze medal in the 200m medley relay. Eva Walshe won a bronze 400m freestyle and Laura Potts won a gold in the 100m back stroke, a silver in the 400m freestyle and a bronze in the 100m freestyle. Well done to all competitors on a great days' swimming. The hard work of all our 7 swimmers gave the team an overall 4th place in the competition.







#### **Careers Week**



This term in OLS we held a Careers Week open to all our students. It was a huge success and students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to speak to professionals and ask them questions relating to their college choices and work life. We had speakers from four different professions, including social work, TV production, nursing and a phycology.



#### **Transition Year Activities:**

What a term our TYs have had, day trips, workshops, bulb planting and work experience.

#### **Our Year So Far**

This term was packed with fun events for the TYs. They continued with all the clubs from Term 1 - maths club, homework club, chess club and much more. Well done to all our TY students who auditioned for the Terenure Musical. We wish all of those involved the very best of luck in the coming weeks

TY's enjoyed their 3rd Development Day. They went on a mini pilgrimage in town, visited museums, learnt about first aid, and got to record their own radio ads while learning about broadcasting.

To represent their growth, the TYs planted bulbs. Each group of students got their own tree to take care of during TY. They dug and planted flower bulbs - a symbol of how they will grow throughout the year.

The term was wrapped up with two weeks of work experience. The Transition Years experienced new and exciting opportunities. They helped at charity shops and creches, attended TDU Creative Arts college, and learnt about healthcare in the RCSI MiniMed programme.

#### Leinster Regional Final for the ActionTalks speech writing competition

Aoibhinn Tywford Mulligan and Elle Walsh Giguere, have this week been chosen as a Leinster Regional finalist in ActionTalks, which is a national speech writing competition run by ActionAid and open to all students aged 14 to 17 years old.

The competition, now in eighth year, received 134 entries from 34 schools across 19 counties.

The competition aims to engage young people aged 14-17 with global issues, including gender equality and sustainable development, and challenges them to use their voice to create positive change. This year the competition focused on how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted on women's rights and how we can create a more equal world post-pandemic.



#### **TY Development Day**

This term our TY's had their 3<sup>rd</sup> Development Day. One group had a broadcasting workshop which was great fun and another class did their First Aid course, where they also learned valuable life long skills.









#### Le Chéile Trust Education Centre

This term our TY Reps had the pleasure of visiting the new Le Cheile Trust Education Centre. They planted flowers and bulbs around the building to brighten up both the Centre and the walkway to Our Lady's School. The girls had a tour of the centre and have been invited back to help the Le Cheile Trust brainstorm for their walled garden.





#### TY Thank you card competition

The Reps also launched the 'TY Thank you card competition' this term. The Reps felt it was important that each TY student were able to show their appreciation to their work experience hosts at the end of each placement. They also felt there were a large number of individuals and businesses who contribute to their TY experience that they would like to thank. The competition was open to all year groups, and the winner was Isabelle Murphy P5, well done!



#### Shout Out



All TY students engaged in 'Shout Out' remotely. They thoroughly enjoyed this interactive, dynamic and informative session. They explored LGBTQ+ terminology, scenarios where students can act as good allies, and ways in which to create a welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ students.

#### Colaiste Bríde

This week a group from Active School Flag represented OLS in an online meeting with Colaiste Bríde, Clondalkin to share ideas about the Active School Flag programme. Well done to those who took part -Amy Dempsey, Celine Butler, Líadan O'Connor, Mary Anne Harte and Rebecca Horne. We look forward to sharing experiences with partnership schools in the future.

#### The Generation €uro competitors

Congratulations to our Budding Economists, Iseult Caffery, Katelyn Hallows , Eabha Gleeson, Katie Murphy and Ali Dougan. Who have reached the semi finals of the Generation €uro competitors. Twenty groups will now compete for the finals in March. The very best of luck!



#### **Random Acts of Kindness**



This term we began our 'Random Acts of Kindness' drive. We hope to see all our students share their ideas with their year group, and also engage in this Drive with the hope of brightening up someone else's day, both inside and outside our school community.

#### **Bulb Planting**

TY1 and TY2 had the pleasure of bulb planting.Ms. G. Byrne talked to the girls about how the bulbs provide a tangible representation of their TY journey. Ms. Redmond also spoke about the symbolic nature of planting these bulbs in January, the start of a New Year and new beginnings.





#### **Block Rotation**

Last but not least all TY's had a block rotation in Irish and Science. These rotations give each student a taste of the vast curriculum that is on offer in OLS. It is important that each student engages in, reflects upon and discusses their experiences as they come closer to choosing their subjects for Senior Cycle. This term TY students were given booklets relating to their subject choices for Leaving Certificate. It is hoped that the information in these booklets will be useful in enabling your daughter to make a well-informed decision about subject choices for 5th and 6th Year. There will be a virtual Students and Parents' Information Presentation on Subject Choice on Monday 28th February at 4:30pm and it is advisable that TY students and paretsn attend.



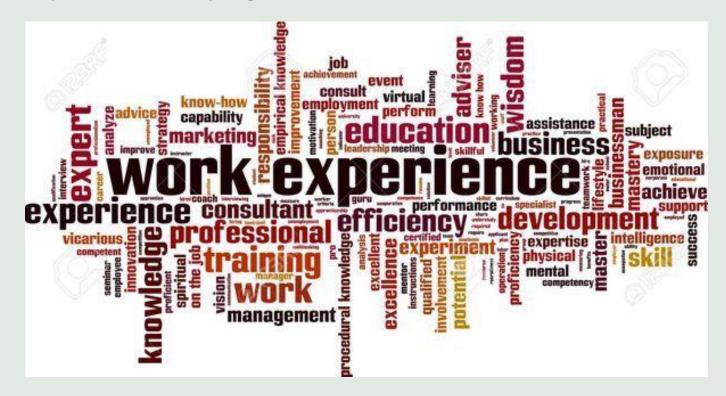
#### **Toastmasters**



A new block of toastmasters began this term and saw our largest ever group of students participate and make their way across to Terenure College. Well done and Enjoy!

#### **Work Experience**

Last but not least, we hope our TY studetns had a productive Block 2 and 3 of work experience. We look forward to hearing about their experience of the work force when they return to school on the 28<sup>th</sup> February for their 5<sup>th</sup> Year dubject options talks.





#### **Hockey**

The hockey season has really picked up momentum since the arrival of our top of the range new pitch. Teams have been training with renewed vigour and the new surface is now really settling in and is lovely to play on. There is great opportunity to learn and showcase new skills as the new surface has a lovely bit of bounce to it.

All of our hockey teams have had a fabulous season so far, the Minor A, B, C1 and C2 teams have completed all their league matches with great team spirit. The Junior A, B and C teams have also finished their league games along with all 3 Senior teams.

The hard work and commitment of our teams since September is reflected in our Senior 1, Junior A and Minor As all reaching the semi finals of their respective leagues. The superb Minor C team narrowly missed out on a semi final place after they played Loreto Foxrock in their quarter final which ended in 1v1s. The

First Years have been keen to get onto the pitch and all 4 teams have just begun their Leinster 8 a side league matches.

All of our teams have had their photos proudly taken on the new pitch which will be displayed in our school magazine at the end of the year. We are looking forward to the grand opening of the new pitch by Minster for Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gealtacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin TD on the 2nd of March. Make sure to have your hockey sticks and



competitive spirit ready to go for upcoming events to celebrate our new pitch! Here is the list of the Semi finals to come when we get back from midterm: Minor A's v Templecarrig (away) Tuesday 8th March 2:30 pm Junior A's v Newpark (Home) Wednesday 9th March 2:00 pm Senior A's v Loreto Dalkey (Away) Wednesday 9th March 3:30pm - Ellen Campbell B5 and Caoilin Dunne B

#### **Debate Club**

Debate club is held lunchtime, every Monday upstairs in the Gym.We have entered one competition.

The two teams we entered in the UCD debating competition have debated three times since the beginning of the academic school year. They are now through to the 'Octo-Finals' knockout stages.

Their latest debate night was the 17th February.Well done to all the students who took part, and congratulations to team 2 made up of Ciara O' Loughran and Sadhbh Ní Shúilleabháin, who have made it through to the Leinster quarter final. Well done girls! We are always open to new members.



#### **Digital Champions**

This term the Second Year Digital Champions continued to work on promoting the positive use of technology among their peers. They gave two class presentations on the topics of online wellbeing and cyberbullying. They will continue with their monthly class visits next term and will play a leading role in Cyber Week after the midterm break.





#### **The Amber Flag Committee**

It has been a busy few weeks for our Amber flag group.

We started off with our photo competition. All year groups were given themes and it was lovely to see such an array of colour in the entries. Lots of the entries are on display around the school. Well done to our winners :

1st year- Emma Ward P1 2nd year Bronagh Delaney M2 3rd year -Eabha Garry M3 TY- Ali Dougan TY3 5th year- Carrie Strahan P5 6th year- Sara Howard L6



Here are some of the entries:





Róisín Evoy and the 5th years worked on our OLS Community Tree mural. The tree is rich in symbolism. Each class is represented on the tree by a leaf in their House colour. Staff and the Amber Flag committee are also represented with colourful leaves. The roots of the tree show our core values as a school community.

The Amber Flag committee w orks to promote positive mental health and wellbeing. Their work is represented by the uplifting quotes on the remaining leaves. We hope this will brighten everyone's day as they pass by.

The girls also made good luck posters and displays in Reception for the Sixth Years doing their mocks.



# Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh

From the Amber Flag Committee



GOOD LUCK,

## you <mark>can</mark> do this !

From the Amber Flag Committee

#### The Coiste Gaeilge

Chuir An Coiste Gaeilge dúshlán romhainn an téarma seo-sin an Ghaeilge a labhairt ar feadh seasca lá ! Our Coiste Gaeilge set a 60 day Gaeilge challenge in January , asking us all to incorporate a bit of Gaeilge into our everyday lives. By making a little effort it should be that bit easier for us all coming up to orals and exams. To help us along the way, the girls provided weekly vocabulary sheets in January on different topics : Mo scoil, Mo cheantar, Éadaí & Caitheamh Aimsire. These have been on the app, Google Classrooms and on our notice board. We hope that it has h elped everyone brush up on their cúpla focal! Don't forget Wordle as Gaeilge is available at foclach.ie. It is another way to keep practising your Gaeilge.



We are hoping that Seachtain na Gaeilge will be really special this year. We have plans to celebrate our language and culture on a big scale- bígí ag faire amach!! We also added to our memes on our Coiste notice boa rd, in an effort to brighten everyone's day...

## I forgot the Irish for "I fell" but then it kind of just thit mé



#### **Charity Club**

The Charity Committee have been very busy this term organising our brilliant OLS charity events. As it was Valentine's Day this month, the Charity Committee have been raising money for the Irish Heart Foundation. Anonymous heart message cards and sweets were sold in aid of the charity which were very popular among the school community! A raffle was also held to support the Irish Heart Foundation with spectacular prizes to be won. A big thank you to Ms Treacy who baked delicious heart shaped cookies for the staff who in return generously contributed to the fundraising.

We are looking forward to our annual clothing drive in aid of St Vincent de Paul which will be held the week we return from midterm, so get your Spring cleaning started!

> The school community has made a phenomenal effort to support all our charity events this year and we would like to take this op portunity to say a big thank you and well done to everybody for getting involved! We have had an extremely successful year so far and we are very hopeful that we will continue this success until the end of the year!

-Charlotte Jones C5 and Róisín Evoy C5





#### **Lighthouse**

The 5th Years have continued forging bonds with the Second Years. They have kept up their weekly visits and have included inspirational quotes, messages and pictures on their class notice boards. On February 17th they led a lesson based on the theme of self love and promoting positive mental health. Classes were creative and worked together focusing on the importance of having a positive outlook.



#### Arts and Crafts Club

This term the Arts and Craft club has been busy! The students enjoyed getting together and letting their creative minds flow. This term we painted candle holders with a variety of themes, some girls painted fruit while others painted rainbows or flowers. We also painted mason jar pen holders! We think they turned out great!





#### **Library**

This term has been busy in the library. Chess club has been active as usual with students competing against each other, while beginners were learning new skills every week. In January we took part in the Great Read Awards, students had the opportunity to read an array of different book titles and then got the chance to vote for their favourite online. It was fantastic to see so



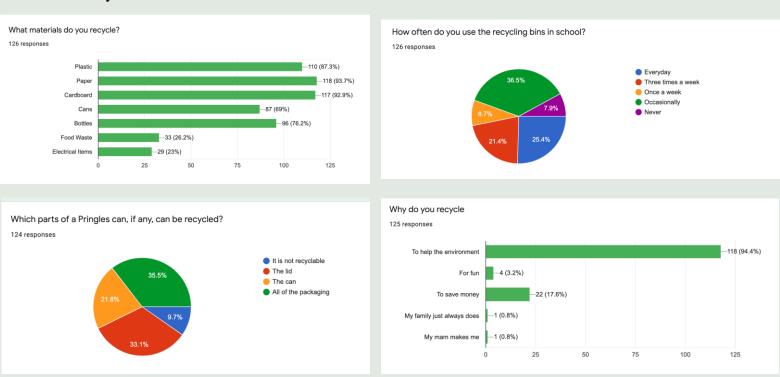
many students reading! In February we held a blind date with a book to coincide with Valentine's Day. This was a great opportunity for students to read a genre that may not be their usual choice! Remember don't judge a book by its cover. During the last week of term our First Year students also received



their Accelerated Reader Certificates. Well done girls! Make sure to keep up the good work next term! Thank you to all the Student Librarians who have helped out in the library since September.

#### **Green Schools**

This term, the Green Schools Committee were really busy carrying out a full environmental review of the school. We started by conducting a full school survey on students' and teachers' recycling habits both in school and at home. The response was excellent and we received valuable feedback on both students' knowledge of recycling and on where recycling bins should be situated around the school. We also researched the litter blackspots throughout the building and in the grounds, so we know which areas to target for our Action Plan. We are looking forward to another exciting term!



#### - Roisin Evoy C5

#### **Student Council**

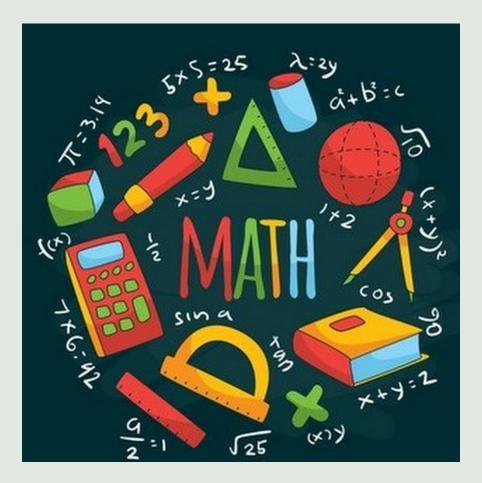
The Student Council have been busy working on behalf of the student body over the past month. They have been working alongside the management team to tackle student issues and are currently developing fundraising activities to reward the students they represent. Watch this space!



#### Maths Club

We really enjoyed having maths club at lunch time on Fridays as it gave us a chance to meet new people from different years in our first year in OLS! The fourth year girls were very welcoming and really helped us to enjoy maths and also helped us to learn new things that we were struggling with in maths. Maths club was a great idea as it made sure that we were not falling behind in any part of maths and it was a non feasible way of helping students to make sure that they have not missed out on anything important. Many students in first year attended maths club and found it helpful because they have really benefited from the help in the long run. The worksheets we used were fun as well as educational. It was great as we were able to come and go when we wanted to and also eat our lunch whilst learning! All the materials that we needed were provided for us like whiteboards,markers,worksheets and more,there were no maths books needed this made it accessible and we wouldn't have to carry around our maths books. There were three fourth year students at each desk. We could ask questions too about our topic in maths and they would show us how to do it. We were also able to sit with our friends which helped us to enjoy it. Maths club helped us realise our strengths and weak points in maths. We're all very thankful for the fourth years and teachers who helped us with maths on their Friday lunch. We would recommend it to people who are struggling in maths.

- Bailee Tallonn C1





Spring has sprung! We can shake off our winter woes and look forward with hope and anticipation to Springtime, the birds singing and flowers blooming, everything seems brighter and better this year.

Chaplaincy got off to a great start this year. In January, I was busy meeting students from 1st, 3rd and 6th year. Our TY's went on retreat to see our



beautiful Dublin churches and participate in some quiet, reflection and prayer. We had Christian Unity week which was a special time to remember those of



different Christian traditions and to celebrate our similarities as well try to live the Gospel of Jesus. We celebrated St. Brigid's day, our female patron Saint on the last year that we will be in school for this feast. Our B House Captain, Shona, recited a prayer to mark this special day. Our Le Chéile online gathering was attended by Heidi Eggen, Charlotte Jones, Roisin Evoy, Niamh Ward, Maeve Lydon, Aoife Dixon and Amelia Blanchfield Ryan. These 5<sup>th</sup> Year students showcased the multitude of charity work that OLS is involved in. They were a credit to the school and represented OLS with great confidence and positivity. Well done! Our 3rd and

6th Year classes have been participating in guided meditation in anticipation of their Mock Examinations. Our charity group have been preparing for Valentine's day with a fundraiser for the Irish Heart Foundation , and our Interfaith group have worked hard in showcasing their Chinese New Year display at reception. All in all, a great start to the year!!

God Bless and protect you all. Justine Redmond Chaplain