



Our Lady's School



## 6<sup>TH</sup> YEARS

A Message from our Head Girls and Sports Captain (Page 4)



**OUR  
LADY'S  
SCHOOL**

**OCTOBER  
NEWSLETTER**

**2022**



## THIS TERM'S TOP STORIES

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



## Sport Season

Look at the many sporting victories of our students during the Term (Page 28)





## PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

28th October 2022

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support over this half term and welcome you to the October edition of our school newsletter.

It has been another exceptionally busy term as we all enjoy being back in person in the classroom and getting involved in the vast extra-curricular programme that OLS offers. Please encourage your daughter to get involved in some of the many extra-curricular activities that are on offer in the school as it creates many new friendships, develops talents and promotes wellbeing.

This Newsletter will give you a flavour of the many activities that are on offer for your daughters and also the opportunities that we provide for the students to engage in new pastimes and develop new passions.

There is a real autumnal feeling around the corridors as they are decorated for Halloween and House notice boards have also been festively decorated. We are also on the final day of a very successful Reading week which included dress up day last Tuesday. Today we have the Reading Week bake off and there is an array of stunning cakes on display. We will also host the last finals in the staff V student dodgeball finals for our active flag. The normally well-behaved staff unleash their sporting competitive side and show their determination to win the competition!

We continue to maintain a focus on high quality teaching and learning and it is wonderful to see so

many classrooms embracing active teaching methodologies after the stationary covid years. Our new astro turf is in constant use including early morning training sessions for a variety of teams and after the break our gym will also be available for students before school.

I wish you and your families a restful break and look forward to seeing our community return refreshed after the holiday.

Kind Regards,  
Marguerite Gorby  
Principal



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Marguerite Gorby". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Marguerite Gorby





## **A Message from your Head Girls and Sports Captain...**

### **Council Corner**

September and October have introduced us to our new roles as Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl. We have had a busy half-term strategically planning the further success and development of our House system as well as becoming positive role models for our younger students. As student leaders, we hope that our presence can help other students have the opportunity to express themselves, their views and ideas.

Each week we have a variety of meetings alongside our sports captain, house captains and council members and then some further important meetings with members of staff to ensure the smooth running of all of our planning and events. We also get the opportunity to meet and talk to other members of the Our Lady's Community. This month we had the pleasure of visiting the nuns which was a lovely experience! The nuns are very important within our school community and play roles in many of our key events.

The year started out with the Badge Ceremony. The council received their badges and we were delighted to be officially recognised as the Senior Council. House activities started right away with Interhouse Table Tennis and an exciting new initiative- House from Home. Commencing the year of InterHouse sport with a bang, Table Tennis brought out the competitive rivalry that is integral to House in OLS! House from Home was incredibly popular this term. It was our first time running such a competition and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. Each year group had the chance to mind the House mascots- Lizzy, Daisy, Kevin, Mort and Pierre. We received some amazing entries, which can be seen on the House Noticeboard, and we can't wait to run it again after midterm!

Our first InterHouse event this year was the Mathletes competition. Twelve participants competed in a competition that mimicked 'Countdown'. It was amazing to see all the different year groups working together as one team, and the competition was very close, with the Bs beating everyone just at the finish line! Our second major InterHouse event this year was our first House Meeting since 2020 as well as Halloween House! We were delighted to finally be able to host a House Meeting again, where all members of a House gather together, as many junior students had never experienced one before. Adding to the festivities each House had

a different theme of dress-up to get in the Halloween mood- B House were 'Superheroes', C House were 'Professions', L House were '80's', M House were 'Sports', and P House were 'Disney'. Each House was split into 10 groups with members from each year group. These groups will remain the same for the rest of the year and it is an excellent opportunity for friendships across year groups. Each group participated in a Halloween Quiz and origami and great fun was had for all!

Something we have been passionate about this term is getting the First Years involved in the school community. We spent some time brainstorming and by taking a short walk around the first-year locker area, we can definitely agree that they are starting to get a feel for house events and understanding and promoting the five Cs of house; Courage, Compassion, Community, Charity and Conscience. The Sixth-Year council distributed the house t-shirts to the First-Year form classes during friendship week and then our year groups joined together on the buddy walk to create a link between the two groups. Members from the First-Year classes are currently representing the Junior House Committee alongside students from Second and Third Year. This group will work closely with the Sixth-Year council and their own form classes in promoting house events and carrying out various responsibilities. The new term is set to see lots of action from the Junior House Committee which we can't wait to see.

As well as running events and competitions, it is our duty to represent the school at events. This term we attended the Parent's Council AGM and the First Year Parent's night. This was one of our first times delivering a speech to a large group of people. We were naturally slightly nervous but overall felt so honoured to represent and put into words our positive experience of Our Lady's and all it has to offer.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our experiences as Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl so far. It has been amazing to be given the opportunity to be leaders in the school community and get to know different year groups. We can't wait to continue making a positive impact in the school.

- Róisín Evoy C6 & Caoilin Dunne B6

## **Sports News**

Here is a quick update of what's going on in OLS this term in sports and extracurricular.

'Believe in yourself and you can achieve greatness in your life' this is a quote from Judy Blume, an American writer. I think this quote is quite suitable as it is reading week here in our OLS. This quote is on my workspace at home and to me it covers all aspects of life. Believing in yourself can truly make a huge impact, in your studies, sport, work, family life and friendships. Believing that you deserve what you earn can set you far above the rest. Here in Our Lady's, with the help of teachers and staff we strive to go far, and to do our best.

So far, so good this term in all sports, as our Junior and Senior camogie teams have been winning matches with incredible score differences. Our u16 basketball team has achieved victory in their first game of the season. Our athletic cross-country girls have done fantastic work, especially Róisín Hanley Byrne, Shona King, Leah Tisdall and Odette Caffrey who have all brought home medals and took part representing our school with pride. Big well-done girls!

All extracurricular activities are up and RUNNING now, starting with our sports. Our new Senior soccer, hockey, gaelic football, camogie, table tennis, badminton, athletics and basketball teams are up and running. Our non-sporting activities; publication club, Minecraft, maths club (we recently had an inter house countdown competition during maths week), green schools, Le Chéile Council, student council and many more also have had a great start to the year. There is something for everyone here in OLS and never too late to get involved.

There is an ongoing competition with each year going against their houses in a dodge ball. The winner gets to play against the teachers and it could get personal!

We have had InterHouse table tennis from first to sixth years and teachers. Getting everyone involved. House points are given to the winners from each year group. After midterm we will KICK start our InterHouse football with each house having one big team and playing against another house, ranging from first to sixth.

We are very proud of Joy Ralph who has represented her country in the international camps with the u17 Irish squad in soccer. Well done Joy! You have myself and the whole of Our Lady's community supporting you.

Well done to everyone who has taken part this term and made an effort to get outside your comfort zone when participating in any of the extra curriculums. You are all doing great and keep up the amazing work that you're more than capable of achieving. Remember to believe in yourself and "If it's meant to be it's up to me" (not me but you!)

- Maria McMahon B6



## First Year Reflections

### My First Term:

Hey! My name's Maryam and I'm a first year in Our Lady's! I was very excited for my first term in secondary school because I have never been in a big school before. I knew a few people from primary school and straight away made some new friends! One of the many things that I enjoyed was our retreat. It was such a fun period of time where we just got to get to know our class, play games and just relax! We did some meditation and some games such as murder mystery and fruit bowl. Another cool thing about OLS is how nice the teachers and staff are. They helped us get around and were very patient with us as we got used to everything. They're all super kind and especially Ms O'Neill who always helps out in the library. The school library has a huge selection of books of all different genres and loads of novels to enjoy. It's honestly one of my favourite places around the school. So overall, I have to admit the jump from primary to secondary school was a huge leap but I surely enjoyed it and I'm really looking forward to my next six years at OLS.

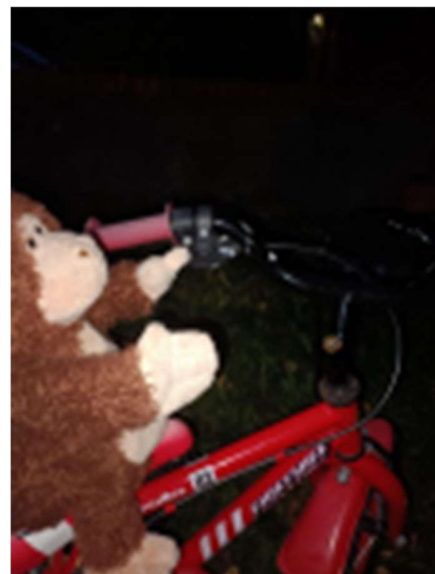
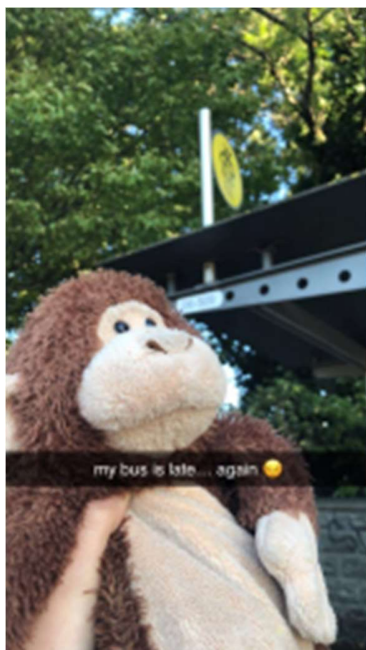
- Maryam Bibani M1



### House Competition:

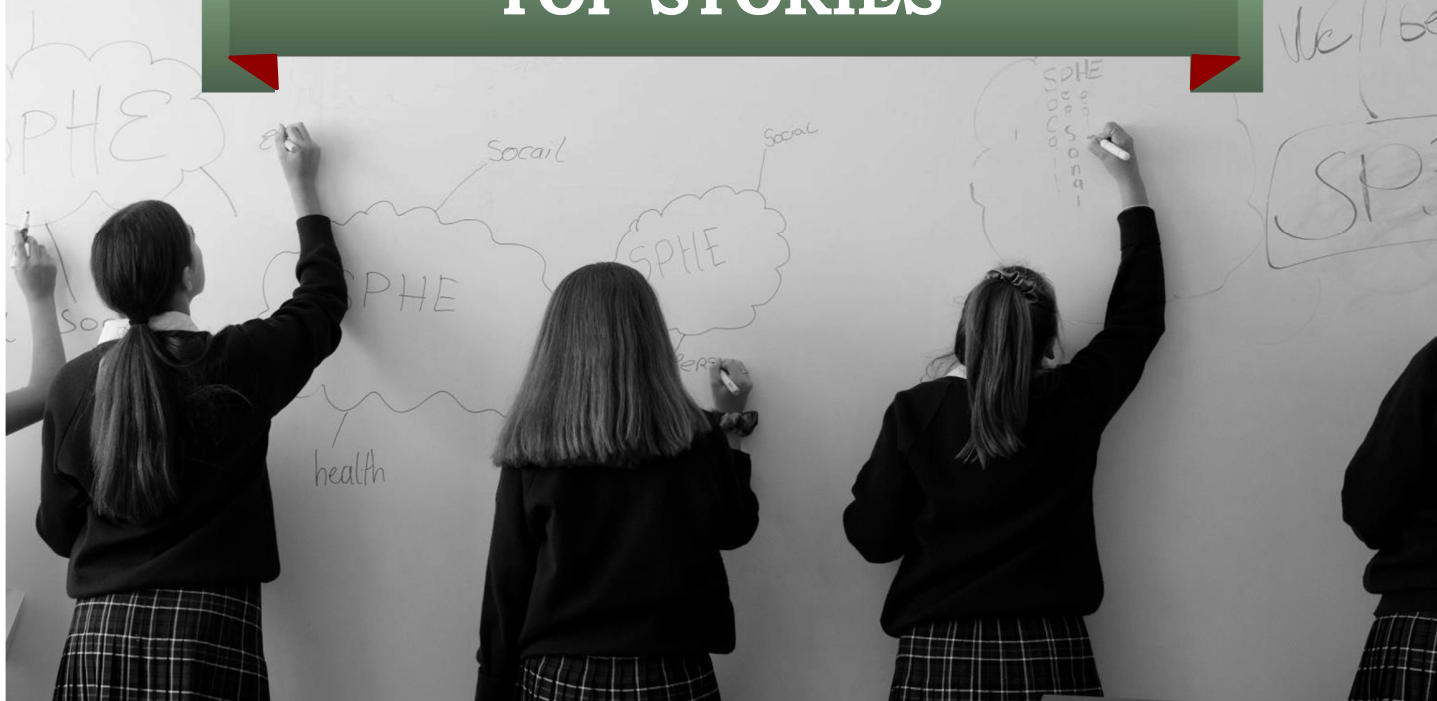
So far, I've been really enjoying my time in first year. One of the really fun activities we've done is the "House from Home" competition. Our house mascots came home with us and got up to all sorts of shenanigans. Mort, the M House mascot, went to cheer on our camogie team and climbed on the climbing frame. He went on a bus ride and learned how to ride a bike. We really enjoyed getting to bring him home and laughing at each other's photos of Mort. It was a great time to bond and we will forever remember all the good times we had with Mort and each other. Thank you to the 6th Years that organised it, we really had a great time!

- Alannah Evoy M1





# THIS TERM'S TOP STORIES



## Congratulations to our Leaving Cert 2022 students

A big congratulations to all our Leaving Cert students who got their results in September. You should all be very proud of yourselves...we certainly are! The results that arrived today are testament to the girls' determination, resilience and the hard work of students and staff alike. There were a phenomenal number of 625s and 613s and many, many individual successes across the board. Congratulations to all!





### **Visit from Le Chéile CEO**

Staff were delighted to welcome Marie-Thérèse Kilmartin, Le Chéile CEO, in September!



### **Passing on the Wisdom**

Our new 6th Year students received a visit from five previous 6th Years. They gave excellent advice on preparing for the busy year ahead and guidance on how to study for their Leaving Certificate. An excellent way to motivate the students for the next year.



### **1st Year First Day at OLS**

In August we welcomed our 1st Year Students into OLS. They had the chance to familiarize themselves with the school before their first full day of school later on that week. During the day the new 6<sup>th</sup> Year council leaders ran successful team building exercises with the 1st Years including tug of war and build a bridge.





### **6<sup>th</sup> Year Achill Trip**

Before the first full week of school in September, the Sixth Years had the opportunity to travel to Achill in Co. Mayo for a weekend away in the Gaeltacht. The bus ride was a gruelling five and a half hour long. Upon arrival after a quick lunch break the activities commenced. Some groups did cliff jumping and bog snorkelling while others went kayaking or indoor rock climbing. The college was a short bus ride from the sea and the water activities were a highlight for many. The good weather also helped to raise spirits.

All of this was done through Gaeilge and the sixth years participated in classes and other indoor activities. Everyone stayed in Bean an Tí houses with their friends, this really helped everyone grasp the local dialect. A firm highlight for all was definitely the nightly ceilís. Both nights had a theme; Summer and the house choice, where each house picked a theme of their own, such as minions, peaky blinders and boys. The ceilis were great fun and the final night was concluded with a dance party, with a special guest DJ. It was a very fun and beneficial experience for all involved.



### **6<sup>th</sup> Year Inauguration Ceremony**

In September we held our 6<sup>th</sup> Year Council Inauguration Ceremony. The new council was presented their badges by Ms. Gorby. The entire school community heard terrific speeches from our new Head Girl Róisín, Deputy Head Girl Caoilin and Sports Captain Maria. Well done to all the girls!







## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Geography Trip

On the 21st of September, Mrs. Bradley and Mr. Rhatigan's Sixth Year geography students came together, along with Ms. McNicholas and Mr. Cox to head to Scouting Ireland headquarters in Larch Hill. The day was filled with various activities the students had to carry out, such as to measure the speed of the water and investigate whether there is a V shape valley in the area. The research and measurements recorded go towards their Leaving Cert geography project. It was a great day of experimentation!

## Friendship Week

We had a hugely successful Friendship Week in early September. Each day we had a Buddy Walk hosted by the 6th Years. It was great to see so many people making new friends and getting their steps in. A big congratulations to Aimee Dignam M2 who came first place in the Friendship Week Writing Competition. Read her fantastic entry below.

### WHAT MAKES A WONDERFUL FRIEND?

A wonderful friend doesn't leave because  
they are afraid to be with you.

A wonderful friend doesn't leave when the fun stops and  
things get uncomfortable.

These are just a few of the values that a wonderful friend does.

In short, A wonderful friend understands the value of friendship and holds it sacred.

A wonderful friend is someone who listens to you without judging,  
right or wrong, good or bad.

When you're feeling low about yourself, they gently help you to see the right  
perspective again.

A wonderful friend reminds you of all the positive qualities you forgot you had.

When you talk with a wonderful friend, decisions are made easier,  
and problems seem less serious.

A wonderful friend gives you the valuable gift of time,  
To talk to when you need them and express you're  
dreams and desires.

A wonderful friend loves you for who you are, and not what you do.

Through close friendship with a wonderful friend,  
You learn the art of giving.

You begin to care more deeply and enjoy sharing.

Seeing the happiness you bring to others gives you the ability to love.

Wherever you may go in life, a wonderful friend will always be there with you.







### **Higher Options**

The 6th Year enjoyed a trip to Higher Options Career Conference in RDS in September to meet with representatives from universities all across Ireland.

### **3rd Years GoQuest**

At the end of September 3rd Years students had a great team building day at GoQuest, Carrickmines. They really showed their perseverance and team building skills in the 28 challenge rooms.



### **Club Sign Up Day**

At the beginning of October. The numerous clubs in OLS organised sign up tables in the GPA during lunch. Students had the opportunity to sign up clubs such as book club, green schools and charity club. It was a great success!





## Matilda Movie

Huge congratulations to Alisha Weir C1 on her wonderful performance in Matilda which premiered at the BFI London Film Festival.

## Retreat

This term each year had an in-school retreat. First Year student Gwen describes their retreat below;

In October all of the first years had a mindfulness retreat. There were so many fun activities! We started off by making ourselves a set of rules and guidelines we have for our class, such as, respect others and always listen to each other. After that, we headed outside to the hockey pitch to do some ice-breakers. One of the tasks was to get to know each other's talents. We were given a grid (on a sheet) and in each box there was a description/talent for example someone who can play an instrument. We had to go around and get the signature of the person with that talent, whoever filled their grid first won. We also played wink murder.

We had a short break to eat lunch. The final part was the most fun! This was where we played a game called fruit bowl. It got us all active. We then finished off the day with a relaxing meditation. Overall it was a great experience and gave us the opportunity to get to know our class better and work together as a unit.

-Gwen Murray M1





## **Maths Week**

There was excellent participation in Maths week this year from all the staff and students in Our Lady's. The 1st and TY students took part in maths scavenger hunts around the school. Our 2nd and 3rd year students participated in a nationwide Maths Olympiad. Our staff took part in daily maths challenges over a cup of tea and finally, all year groups participated in an inter-house countdown in the GPA to wrap up the week. The competition was fierce! Overall it was a great week where maths in the school was celebrated.



## **Texaco Children's Art Competition**

Congratulations to Elizabeth McElroy (P3) and Rachel Li (B6) who both received Certificates of Commendation in the Texaco Children's Art Competition earlier this year. Their work reached the final judging stages in a field of almost 20,000 entries. I'm sure you will agree that this recognition of their talent is well deserved!





## Reading Week

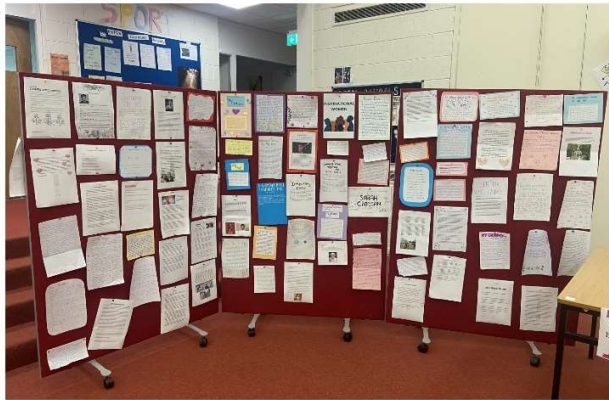
This year's Reading Week was a great success at OLS held during the last week of the term. With our theme, 'You Are A Reader', we explored strong female characters in literature. We had lots of DEAR time and many fun games and competitions throughout the week. The library held scavenger hunts, a literacy quiz and Guess Who? Our two big winners of the week were Caoimhe Mooney winning the Short Story competition, and the following students for winning the Bake Off!

1<sup>st</sup> Place= Kate Heffernan M3

2<sup>nd</sup> Place= Emma Palmer C1 and Sinéas Palmer P3

3<sup>rd</sup> Place= Sarah Prendergast and Elly O' Kennedy Carr and Neisha Fairbrother M1

Congratulations to everyone who took part in Reading Week!





## Halloween

After a long absence the OLS House Meetings returned this year. House meetings give students a unique opportunity to meet and mix with students in other years groups.

To keep it seasonal our theme today was The Haunted House with each class & house group dressed in their chosen fancy dress theme. Money raised today will go towards the anticipated OLS Dome.

The costumes were fantastic this year. Well done to all the girls and staff who put so much effort into their outfits! Have a look at a selection below. Happy Halloween!



## **Transition Year Activities:**

What a first term our TY's have had! Our TYs have had a busy term between Development Days, hikes and trips.

### **TY Reps**

We were delighted to introduce our 2022-23 TY reps who were elected by their peers.

TY1: Maria Hennelly & Katie Kennedy

TY2: Ella O'Dell & Louisa Rath

TY3: Saibh Gormley & Kate Swift

TY4: Isabelle Aasen & Rachel Davis

TY5: Ingrid Marron & Clara Wilkins



### **Development Day**

What an exciting term with all our TY's engaging in their first Development Day.

TY1's were brought back in time and experienced a multitude of attractions our city has to offer. From looking up phone numbers old-school in a 1950's telephone directory to appreciating a first edition James Joyce's 'Ulysses' and blowing an air raid siren, students got a sense of what life was like in Dublin from World War 1 right through the 1916 rising to present day Dublin filled with Music from U2. Their next stop was the State Apartments at Dublin Castle. Here it was almost like being on the set of Bridgeton making their Debutante Ball appearance. They visited St. Patrick's Hall which has not only hosted American Presidents including Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and John F. Kennedy, but also the late Queen Elizabeth II during her State visit back in 2011. The day wasn't completed without a further Historical EPIC journey through the Irish Emigration Museum.

TY2's took part in the Close Encounters Self Defence Course. The focus of the course is on the ability to defend oneself without complicated techniques. The techniques taught to the TY's will allow them to defend themselves against a variety of conflict situations including punches, kicks, blunt weapons, knives, defence and escapes from the floor, grabbing attacks, bladed weapons, psychological self-defence, voice commands and personal protection theory.

TY3's explored many of the historic beautiful churches that Dublin city has to offer, while also engaging in a voyage of stillness, inward reflection and prayer.



TY4's had a first-class day as they completed their certified first aid course. This valuable course equipped our students with the knowledge to be the difference between life and death. Learning first aid helps to improve self-esteem as well as teamwork and communication skills. Areas covered include but are not limited to CPR and Intro to the use of AED, head injuries, diabetes, asthma and approaching an accident.

Finally, TY5's had a whale of a time at Dublin Zoo. headed to Dublin Zoo. The morning started off with the Zoo's Conservation Module. This outdoor module began with a history of zoos, looking at Dublin Zoo as a case study. It then covered the role of zoos in modern conservation, their importance for the breeding of endangered species and their role in reintroduction programmes.

Focusing on species within Dublin Zoo, the group discussed the conservation challenges faced by these species and how the Zoo supports these species in the wild. After the morning module and lunch in the sunshine all students took a tour of the Zoo.

## **Carlingford**

Every year TY's go to Carlingford for a few days. It is one of the highlights of TY. Aoife in TY2 wrote a description of what they did over the three days.

On Wednesday the 5th of October the TYs all woke up bright and early to get to school for 7:00 am, all the sleepy heads and massive bags at the school gates was not a sight to forget. We all waited in St. Joseph's Hall until we were sorted into our buses then we were off the road, the journey was long but we had a great concert on the bus due to all the singing.

When we arrived in Carlingford town our voices were tired but we were all very excited. We met our very enthusiastic instructors who were delighted to see us. We then struggled to walk to the adventure centre as our massive bags were dragging behind us.

We were split into groups to take part in various activities. My group was taking part in the survival challenge. We first had to walk up this very steep hill and we can all say that our legs burned. For our first activity we had to fill a bucket with pipes that had two holes so you can imagine how hard that was. It took some time to figure it out but we were able to fill the bucket up just in time before the timer went off. Our second activity was to start a fire, unfortunately it had rained very heavily the day before so all the wood was wet. But we still somehow managed to light a fire. After lunch we played laser tag. It was great fun. We put on camouflage suits and got our laser guns. I was on the red team and we won every time. It felt so real



as the guns made real bullet noises and we had barriers to hide behind. That was the highlight of the trip for me. After dinner my group played some entertaining games, for example who could talk to an apple the longest, who could jump the furthest and loads more. Until we finally headed to bed.

On the second day we had the 25km hike. Thankfully it didn't rain till the last 3 km but we sang songs, danced a little. We were all exhausted by the time we got back, luckily, we had a lovely dinner. We played a quiz then we went to bed.

On our last day we headed over to Skypark where we took part in ziplining, archery, axe throwing and mazes. The ziplining was really exciting because it was very high. The archery was then said a sad goodbye to our instructors and got on the bus. The start of the journey home was very quiet as we all slept but then people started to sing and it became a lively bus again, we all cheered when we saw the school and we were all happy to get home.

Overall, I would say we all had an amazing trip to Carlingford and we would love to go back again.

-Aoife Cleary TY2



## **TY Enterprise Fair**

During October our TYs had the opportunity to sell their products. During the fair 1st Years were invited down to buy some of the great items on sale such as Petri Dish and Syringe Jelly, Homemade Hair Scrunchies, Halloween Surprise Bags and Lip products including glosses and scrubs. They also had Halloween inspired games such as guess the weight of the pumpkin and the height of the witches hat.

Well done to all the TYs. It was a huge success. The atmosphere in St. Joseph's hall was fantastic. Their hard work definitely paid off.



## **Webwise Youth Panel**

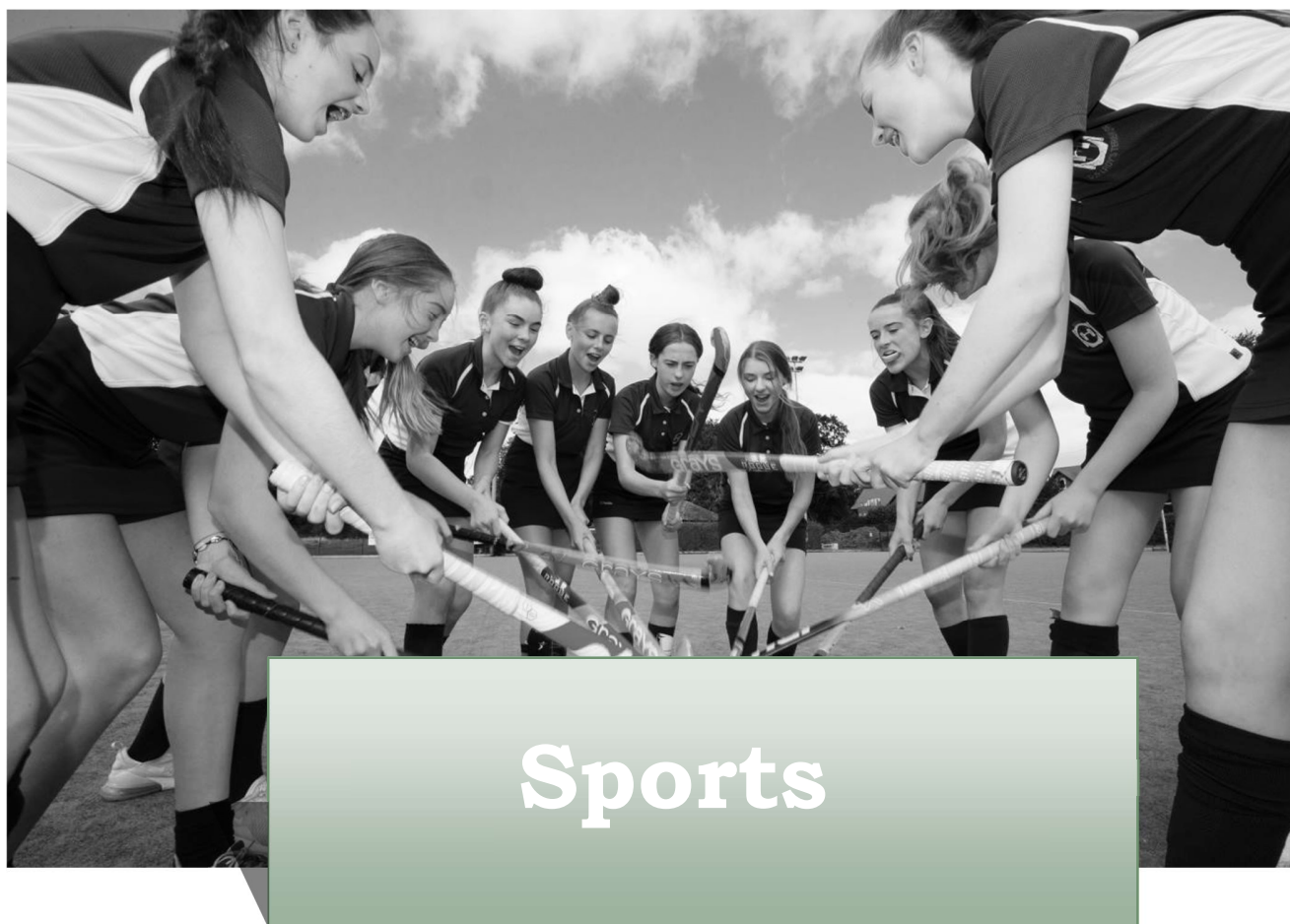
Two TY students were successful in their applications to become members of the Webwise Youth Panel 2022-2023. The Webwise Youth Panel is made up of thirty-five secondary school students from across Ireland who want to speak out against online safety abuses and make a difference. This is what the students had to say about their first Webwise event



On the 21st of October, we got the 54a bus into the city centre where our first meeting of the Webwise Youth Panel was being held in Dublin City Council's Wood Quay venue. We met the other members of the panel who had travelled from places across Ireland such as Monaghan, Limerick and Louth and three Webwise officers. We were provided with a delicious lunch of pizza before delving into the aims of the panel and discussions on healthy and unhealthy online behaviour. We really enjoyed getting to know the other members through fun games and are looking forward to the next meeting and being able to voice students' thoughts and concerns about the internet.

- Maria Hennelly TY1 and Saibh Gormley TY3





This term has been a very busy time for sport both inside and outside the school. The teams are having a great start to the new season.



## Hockey

Our Hockey teams are off to a strong start of the new season the senior, junior and minor teams training every week.

Our Junior Hockey team had their first win against Beaufort. Well done!

## Football

Congratulations to Joy Ralph 5th Year on her selection to the Republic of Ireland Women's Under 17 squad.



Well done to Aoife Fennell M2 who has been selected for FAI Schools Leinster Girls U15 2022 Squad. The team will represent Leinster at this year's interpro tournament.

## Ping Pong

During this term 6th Year Council have held ping pong tournaments during lunches. It has been a great success with fun had by all!



## Basketball

The U16s basketball team had a great victory in their first game against Loreto Beaufort. Final score 33 - 50. A great start to the season!



## Athletics

The Athletics team first outing of the year was a success. They headed to the Phoenix park to take part in the Dublin Schools Cross Country. Well done to everyone who competed showing determination and perseverance. A special mention to our medal winners Róisín Hanley Byrne, Shona King, Leah Tisdall and Odette Caffrey. Well done!



## Camogie

It has been a fantastic start to the season for Camogie in OLS. The girls have been putting in the hard work training after school on Mondays, and early on Wednesday mornings before school. This has clearly paid off as both our Junior and Senior teams have had emphatic starts to the season.



Our Junior team, led by our captain Maria Hennelly, put in a fantastic by defeating St Colmcilles and Portmarnock CC. We have now qualified for the B Championship. The draw for the knockout stages will be made soon.

Our Senior team, led by our captain Heidi Eggen, have successfully qualified for the knockout stages of the B Championship. The girls put in great team performances against, yet again, both St Colmcilles and Portmarnock CC. We now await the draw for our opponents in the next round.

Overall it has been a very successful term, and we hope to See it continue!

All the camogie players would like to thank Mr. Cantwell for all his hard work coaching us and organising matches this term.







# Extracurricular Activities



## The Amber Flag Committee

The Amber flag committee has been off to a great start this year. We have a new mascot, Amber, who is always available for hugs to make the day more 'bear-able'!!

We had a Wake Up, Shake Up to set Mental Health Awareness Day off on a positive start. Also, green ribbons from "see change" were delivered to each class during Pastoral Care. The ribbons are a reminder of the constant support the school offers and how we can all support and help each other.

The OLS Community tree has been updated with new leaves, representing each class, staff and core values of our school. The Amber flag notice board has been updated with some motivational quotes.



## Garden updates

Ms Fitzpatrick, Ms Kinsella and some Sixth-Year helpers did some planting in our roof garden. Plants in house colours have been added and one in amber for our Amber flag group, promoting the importance of wellbeing, inclusion & belonging



## Library

The first term has come to an end and what a term it has been. All our activities have been back up and running, Mindfulness Colouring on Mondays and Chess Club on Tuesdays have been a massive hit with students. We have had excellent displays to celebrate authors such as Roald Dahl and to remember the importance of Banned Books Weeks, students and staff were fascinated to see why so many books had been banned over the years.

This term during Friendship Week the library ran a creative writing competition. Students had to write a response to the question “What makes a wonderful friend?” We had some beautiful entries and the winners were Aimee Dignam M2 in first place and Bronagh Delaney and Kate Heffernan M3 in second place with their joint submission.

Our student Librarians for this year have been chosen. They are Lilly Andriani, Iman Niazi, Lucy Condon, Emma Palmer, Lucie Brady, Eve Lynch, Aoibhe Tunney, Kate Mannering, Niamh O’Riordan, Sophia Mullally, Blinne Martin, Ahlaam Awed, Clara Flinter and Casey Anne Wynne Robinson.

Reading week was a massive success this year. Every Class got involved and it was a fantastic week of competitions and events. The library ran Guess Who? An activity where students had to guess the teachers and staff hidden behind a book. It was a big hit with students trying to figure it out.

Halloween was in full swing in the library, the student librarians helped decorate the library and create a spooky book display. Students painted pumpkins which turned out fantastic! We also ran a Halloween short story competition. We had some very spooky entries and the winner was Caoimhe Mooney TY5.



Lastly a huge thank you to everyone who has donated a book to the school library so far and don't forget Book Bingo has started and you can pick up your sheet in the library after the midterm.



### Lighthouse Programme

Lighthouse mentors have had a busy term. They work as groups with the Second-Year classes, making sure that the Second Years feel supported. Each class has created their own Lighthouse notice board and the mentors work with form teachers to decide on weekly activities and challenges to encourage inclusion and cooperation among their classes.



On Friday the 16th of September, twenty-four fifth year students took part in lighthouse mentoring session from 8:30-10:30. We have each been assigned a group of 5 people from second year who we look out for throughout the year, whether it be a simple smile in the corridor or organising a class event for them. During the mentoring Pat Murphy spoke to us about what we could do to help the second years. We wrote out advice for second year students in smaller groups and shared them with the other lighthouse members. This

advice included staying organised, having an open mind, doing extracurricular activities and staying on top of homework.

We learned how to have a positive impact in someone's life and how we could do this. We could do this by simply asking them if they are okay or how their day has been or about their classes that day. We learned some guidelines that will help us, as mentors, get the response we would like from the programme. This includes being positive, greeting them by their names, showing genuine interest and being willing to listen and lend a helping hand. Most importantly it is so important that we as mentors lead by example. We aim to encourage positive behaviour and if we have a positive impact on their day they are likely to pass that positivity onto others which creates a friendly environment in the school.



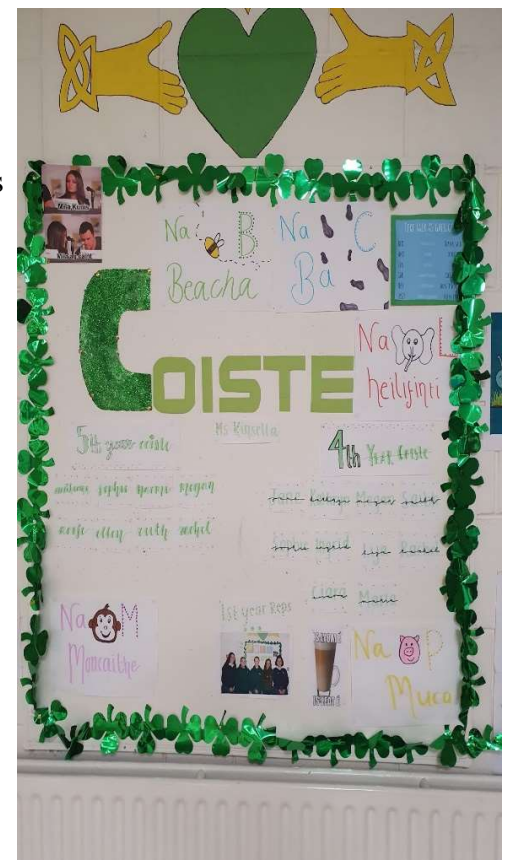
Overall it was a really great workshop and we will all be using this advice to be the best lighthouse mentors we can be!

- Rachel Vaughan L5

### Coiste Gaeilge

The main aim of the group this year is to embed Gaeilge throughout our daily activities. Already, the First-Year reps have been chosen and they successfully promoted our alphabet competition. All Irish teachers' doors were decorated by theme by the 5th year reps, who also updated the notice board.

Watch out for our new stickers!





## Charity Committee

Thank you to everyone who showed their support and wore their jersey in aid of GOAL on Friday. Lots of students and teachers turned out on many different colours of jerseys of a large variety of sports; GAA, soccer, camogie, hockey, basketball and even ice-hockey! We raised 1,673 euro for GOAL. Thanks to everybody who took part in jersey day! GOAL is an Irish international humanitarian response agency founded over 40 years ago. They work in many countries around the world in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Ukraine in Europe. GOAL works with communities that are dealing with extreme poverty and crisis. So, as you can see it's a very worthy charity to be supporting. This would not have been possible without you. Next term we can look forward to launching our November knitathon. Students will be able to purchase knitting needles and wool at the GPA each day at break and lunch.

Many thanks

The charity committee. 😊





## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### **Hats The School Chaplain Wears**

I would like to take this opportunity to say how blessed I am to be the chaplain at Our Lady's School. For those of you who I have not met yet, my name is Mr. Devine. Going forward it is paramount that you know the many roles of a school chaplain and how a school chaplain fulfils the needs of those at the school, from all faiths to those who have none. However, in today's world, spirituality can play its part for all denominations and none, with people being enlightened by different things and in different ways, by taking charge of their health and well-being.

The school chaplain gives encouragement where and when it is needed by supporting the adolescent in their formative years, being present and active in the school community by listening to the concerns of all people and helping them with their concerns, or issues.



A school chaplain offers encouragement and will help those who are willing to try things out, and to reflect on failure as well as success. Knowing the community, pupils, staff, and all who work within and for the school, is important to the school chaplain. This could mean meeting young people and staff, where they are at in their lives. Appreciating and enjoying the happiness and inspiration that young people can give as well as empowering young people in their attempt to answer the critical questions in life. Being a witness to one's faith, a positive presence, and a bridge builder.

Offering prayer experiences and liturgy of the word are important. Weekly planned events to celebrate, recall, and show respect in commemoration to different occasions in the liturgical calendar, will be events all pupils will have experienced or taken part in throughout the school year. All of which I pray that we can continue and work together on.

As a Catholic school we must prepare for two important events in the liturgical calendar that are coming up. First to take place is 'All Saints Day' (1st November) and All Souls Day' (2nd November) which brings us into 'In November, We Remember' when we remember those souls who have passed.

I look forward to meeting everyone and working together each week, in planning and preparation throughout the year for all occasions.

- Leo Devine Chaplain



