



HAPPY
Halloween

6TH YEARS

A Message from our Head Girls and Sports Captain



**OUR
LADY'S
SCHOOL**

**OCTOBER
NEWSLETTER**

2023



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

**TOGETHER WHAT A
WONDERFUL PLACE TO BE**



PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

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

On our return to school we were delighted to welcome our 1st Year students who have settled in very well under the watchful eye of our 6th Year prefects and they are a positive addition to our community. We continue to maintain a focus on high quality teaching and learning to promote student attainment. Our academic tracking programme is now well established in the school and is developing by the day to assist all students reach their potential.

The school is a hub of activity as we embrace all the opportunities available for our students. Last week's schedule alone saw the 2nd Years travel to Causey Farm, 3rd Year's parent teacher meetings and the 6th Year's theatre trip to 'Hamlet'. Further activity included the U19 Basketball team's match in Galway, junior cross country competitions Senior Camogie and Gaelic matches.. The 3rd Years had a trip to Go Quest and our 1st years had their Haunted House evening fundraiser in aid of the Kenya trip. Numerous hockey matches were also being played. Alongside this our extensive extra curricular programme was running accompanied by Maths week.

Maths week in OLS is a fun action packed event with maths learning at the core. 2nd, TY and 5th Years are also entering the Maggie Gough maths competition. A whole school inter house Countdown competition in the GPA on Thursday was the culmination of the week and showed us all how competitive the Maths department really is!

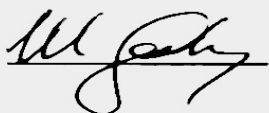
A warm congratulations to our TY students on receiving their Junior Cycle results. We are delighted

with the excellent results and know that a strong foundation has been laid for these students as they move into the Senior Cycle.

Reading Week was a fantastic week this week with many activities planned to promote literacy and encourage the lifelong skill of reading in the library and in every classroom.

The dome is in the final stages of construction, the basketball flooring is currently being laid and the numerous snags getting completed. We are very excited to open it to our students after the mid term break.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marguerite Gorby'.

Marguerite Gorby



A Message from your Head Girls and Sports Captain

Head Girl

In September I began my new role as Head Girl of Our Lady's alongside our Deputy Head Girl, Megan Clancy, and our Sports Captain, Jennifer Power. As student leaders I hope that our presence can help other students have the opportunity to express themselves and that we will be good role models for all years. The year started off with the Inauguration Ceremony. The whole council were delighted to be recognised as the new Student Leadership Team as we received our badges. Our first term has already been jam packed with all things House as it is an integral part of Our Lady's. As each class met their new prefect and the 1st Years were introduced to our House system it was very important to myself and all of the council that everyone knew that the House system is a place for everyone to get involved and feel like they belong. The 1st Years also received their House t-shirts which they can wear with pride at all inter house events.

Our InterHouse competitions kicked off with soccer and House from Home where the competitive side was seen from all and the House mascots had some great adventures including Carlingford with the TY's! Lizzy, Daisy, Kevin, Mort and Pierre all had a blast getting to know each year group.

With Maths week on the rise the Council hosted their very own Countdown where 12 students from each house represented their house to try to win as many points as possible while also promoting the importance of maths.

Halloween was celebrated throughout Our Lady's as spooky games were played in the GPA every lunchtime and to top off a week filled with fun we had our very first fashion show where each class got to display their group costume that they chose with their prefect. To end such a great term our 1st Years were invited to a Haunted House to raise money to bring supplies over to Kenya to help those who are less fortunate. A night filled with laughs, spooky games and fun was had by all.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience as Head Girl so far. It has been an honour to be given this opportunity to be a leader in our school community and to get to know all of the year groups. I can't wait to continue to have a positive impact in the school and to encourage everyone to get involved in our school community.

Ella McCabe L6

Deputy Head Girl

We've all made it through the first term, congratulations!! We have had a busy half term enjoying planning exciting events that will contribute to the further success and development of our House system!! As a student leader working alongside our Head Girl, Ella McCabe, Sports Captain, Jenny Power and the 6th Year Council our aim is to continue to promote the positive, safe environment that is OLS and provide a place where students can truly be themselves, able to express their own opinions and views. A few of my favorite events to date have been House from Home and the Interhouse soccer tournament just to name a few!! Despite only being back in school a couple of weeks, the House spirit and energy has been amazing to see, and I look forward to it continuing for next term's fun and festive events!!

I was honoured to be made Deputy Head Girl for this year, taking over from last year's fantastic representative, Caoilin Dunne. Despite the initial nerves starting back in September, I have loved my first term in the role, taking part in school committees such as Amber Flag and Lighthouse and also contributing to our 6th Year council to make positive impacts in the school. It has been amazing to

be given the opportunity to be a leader in the school community, getting to know the different year groups. I'm really looking forward to next term and all the exciting plans we have in store!!

I hope you all have a lovely and relaxing mid term.

Megan Clancy L6

Sports Captain

Hi everyone, my name is Jenny Power and I'm delighted to be Sports Captain this year. A big welcome to the 1st Years and new students and welcome back to everyone else. It's great to see so many girls across all year groups getting stuck into extra-curricular activities from the get-go.

We had a huge number of successful sporting events so far this year and we hope the winning streak continues for the rest of the year.

Just to name a few of the sporting highlights of the year so far, the U16 basketball team had a great win over Mount Sackville and our U19

basketball team also had a fantastic win against Thurles. Our Junior Camogie team started off strong, beating Coláiste Íosagáin and our Senior Camogie team won their first two matches with comprehensive wins.

Hockey fixtures continue to brighten up our Saturday mornings with 1st Year, Minor, Junior and Senior matches taking place.



We were delighted to receive brand new jerseys for the Junior and Senior Camogie teams alongside Mr Cantwell that were generously sponsored by Faughs GAA.

I was delighted to see so many girls take part in Inter House soccer with a fun and competitive attitude. Keep an eye out for more upcoming Inter House events over the next few weeks!

If you haven't gotten involved in anything yet, it's not too late and there's something for everyone!

Jennifer Power L6

Student Council

The Student Council have delegated their roles and responsibilities for the coming year. They received their Leadership training and learned about what it means to be a Student Leader in Our Lady's.





This term's top stories include 1st Year Reflections, the latest news on our extracurricular activities, maths week, reading week, charity fundraisers students have been involved in as well as some interesting trips our students have been enjoying in the first term of school!

First Year Reflections

My experience so far in OLS has been wonderful! The teachers are lovely and will answer any of my questions. I have joined many clubs and activities that interest me. I look forward to the next few years knowing they're going to be amazing!!

Megertu Gladney P1

My locker. I've really enjoyed having a locker and keeping it how I like. I've really enjoyed break and lunch time as I can go wherever I like in the school. I like new subjects like digital media, philosophy, business and French. I think they make every day more interesting. I really liked the induction day. I thought it would be scary but it was really fun meeting everyone without the stress of school.



Emma
Ryan
P1



Club Sign Up Day

Club sign up day is a great opportunity to showcase all our clubs and extra curricular activities. Lots of students turned up to sign up for a new extra curricular activity! It was great to see so many sign up to try something new!



Charity Work

Save the Seals Colour Day

M3 raised an astounding €90 with their “Save the Seals Colour Day” and were able to adopt three seals, Scribbly Gum, River Slaney and Cloudberry.



Bake Sale

L3s CSPE class organised a very successful bake sale on the 5th of October. Their aim was to raise money for FOCUS Ireland. Students filled Joey's Hall at lunchtime to get some of the tasty treats - which resulted in the bake sale raising over €550 for FOCUS Ireland. L3 were delighted with this and would like to thank everyone who turned up and bought something for such a good cause.

Jersey Day

Great to see so many of our students supporting Jersey Day. A big thank you to students and parents who donated to Goal!! €1180 has been raised to date!



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Maths Week

There was lots happening for Maths Week this year. 1st Year students took part in a maths scavenger hunt, 3rd Year students completed an in-class maths olympiad while 2nd, 4th and 5th Year students competed in the nationwide Maggie Gough Competition competing against 200 other schools. On Thursday the GPA was a hive of activity as the houses competed against each other in an Inter House countdown competition. Maths was very much alive in Our Lady's School last week!



Reading Week

Reading week is a busy week in the school and all of the classes and students engaged in lots of fun literacy activities. Activities included a library scavenger hunt, design your own book cover competition, Guess the Shelfie as well as the Great OLS Bake Off. The 4th Years enjoyed an author visit with bestselling Irish author Ciara Geraghty.

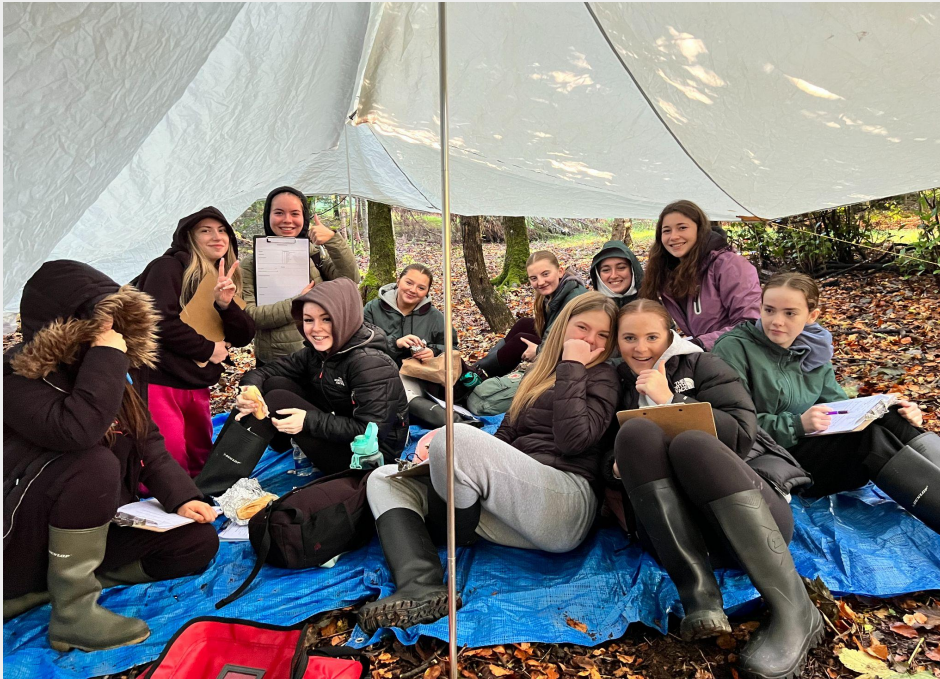
There were so many fantastic entries for the Design a Book Cover Competition, but could only choose three winners, a big congratulations to Li Zhou L6, Kate Vance B5, and Isabel Searson P1.

This year our Reading Week was topped off with our Reading Tree. It was great to see how many books our students were reading!!!



Sixth Year Trips

Geography students enjoyed investigating the effect of erosion on the River Glin



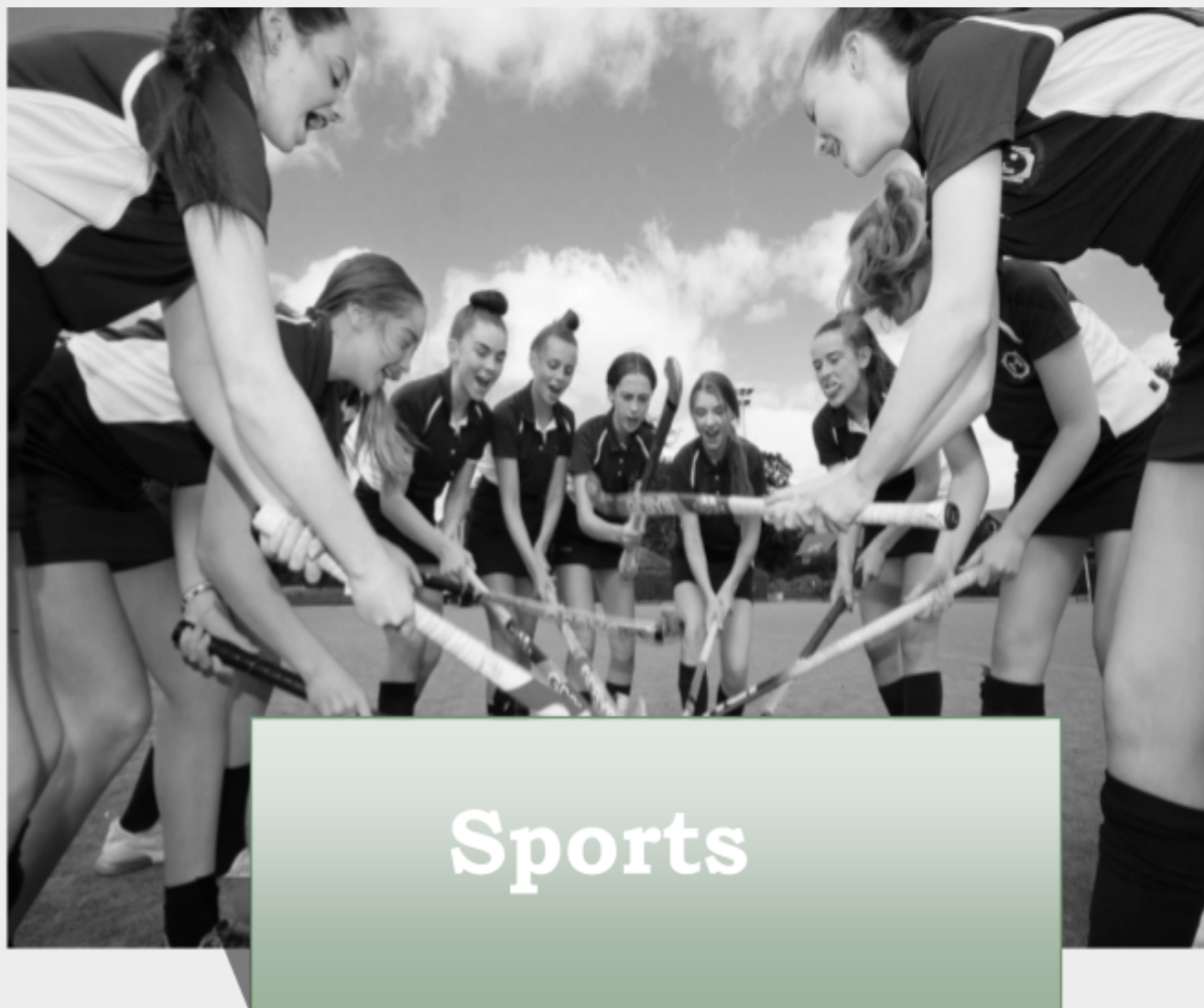
The English students enjoyed a trip to the Gaiety school of acting in Clontarf to see a production of Hamlet



Transition Year Activities:

The Transition Year students have had a wonderful start to the year since September. A huge range of activities have been provided to students both inside and outside of the classroom. The trip to Carlingford was one of these adventures, with more great moments and memories ahead!





Hockey

The hockey season is well and truly underway in school, with all teams having opened their league campaigns already. The girls have been training hard since early August and you can really see the effect of this in their play. The dedication and effort in training has been excellent and this is making a real difference in our performances to date! Notable mentions to the Minor 4, Junior 1 and Minor 1 sides who have all got 3 points after their first round of games. The league will continue on up until January and we hope to have many of our teams feature in the quarter finals on the hunt for silverware this season! Well done girls and keep up the hard work!



Basketball

Our U19s Basketball team are going from strength to strength since their win against Thurles. Well done girls!



Camogie

It has been a great start to the Camogie season in OLS. The girls have been training hard every Thursday morning and it is already paying off. Our Seniors started the Championship with an emphatic win over St Wolstans. Our Juniors had a tough start to the A Championship but put in a brilliant performance to beat Coláiste Íosagáin . We hope to continue this good form pushing on to the season!



Football

Our Senior LGFA team got off to the perfect start with two wins over St Louis High School, Rathmines on. We wish our Senior team the best of luck with their remaining group games.





Extracurricular Activities

Library

This term has been a very busy fun term in the library. Our Student Librarians for this year have been chosen and they are Blinne Martin, Olivia Dunne, Lara Gibbons, Sophia Mulally, Emily Brady, Clara Flinter, Ahaam Awed, Nicole Lin, Lia Tobin Howes, Elizabeth Moore, Keela Coffey, Eve Lynch and May Brennan.



There are lots of new books to check out and our student librarians have been busy creating new book recommendation displays with information cards about the books they have read. Our lunchtime clubs have begun again in the library and include Mindful Monday colouring, chess club, board games and of course our book club.

This term in our book club we are reading *The Last Storyteller* by Donna Barba Higuera which the students have been enjoying. For Friendship Week the library ran a poetry competition, Caoimhe Mooney was the winner with her beautiful poem, "What We Are". To promote the freedom of reading we had a library display which displayed some books that had been banned. Students and staff were fascinated to see why so many books had been banned over



the years which created a great conversation about the freedom of reading amongst some of our 1st years.



Halloween was in full swing in the library, the student librarians helped decorate the library and created a spooky book display.

The Amber Flag Team

The new members of the Amber Flag committee have been working hard to start the year off with positivity and smiles!

To mark our new start, we got everyone dancing at “That Friday Feeling”. There was a great attendance and we saw lots of happy faces.

On the 10th of October, to celebrate World Mental Health Day, the Amber Flag girls organised a Just Dance video at the start of our first class to get spirits up! Also, at pastoral care class, we gave everyone their own “see change” ribbon along with an inspiring and individual quote, as a reminder of the support and guidance always shown in Our Lady’s.

Finally, we have worked on updating the OLS Community Tree. We decided to use hearts in our house colours as leaves to represent, but also remind everyone about, the happiness and love felt throughout our school.

The Amber Flag group wishes everyone the very best Halloween midterm and the best of luck in preparation for the school November exams.

Culture Club

The students in Culture Club had lots of fun organising a Halloween colouring competition in collaboration with the library.



Lighthouse Programme

We are the 5th Year Lighthouse Mentors. Our role is to mentor 2nd Years and to help them throughout the year, we are always there if they have any questions or if they ever need help with anything. Recently, we had a workshop with Pat Murphy. During this, Pat taught us the key concepts to being a mentor, he taught us how to be respectful to ourselves and others, we all really benefited from this experience. We are really looking forward to getting to know our 2nd Year groups and to improve our mentoring skills.



Coiste

Dia daoibh! The Coiste have had a very busy start to the year, with lots more to come. As of right now, we have established our Gaeilge Bratach committee, select members have been to their first Gaeilge-speaking event and we are gearing up to reveal our mascot. We hope everyone will enjoy all that's on its way.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A Note from Our Chaplain

Hello, and welcome to the Chaplaincy Corner! It has been a great delight to join the wonderful community at Our Lady's School this year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of the Sisters, students and staff who have been so helpful and welcoming since September. This term has been full of blessings



already, and our Opening School Mass at St Pius X Parish was a major success. B5's theme of 'Get your sparkle on, show the world where you belong' inspired the congregation to 'Dance the Night Away', as the choir and musicians performed the hymns beautifully. New parish priest, Fr Pat also made a great first impression on all at OLS in his celebration of the Eucharist.

The Chaplaincy and RE Department continue OLS' commitment to promoting faith, dialogue, and service of others through the Le Chéile Council, Charities group, Culture Club, and school retreats. The 1st Years have all met with the Chaplain as part of their welcome to Our Lady's, and over the summer we were blessed to have the Oratory refurbished, too – thus, the girls always have a warm welcome there and place in which to pray. I have found Our Lady's to be a very action-packed place – stay tuned for more exciting adventures to come!



