



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Wishing all members of the OLS community a joyful and peaceful holiday season with friends and family.



PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Seasons greetings from the Principal. Read about the latest happenings at OLS, including the new Dome.



SPORTS STARS

Hockey team introduces new OLS style play, u16 and u19 basketball finish in second place. Read more in the Sports Update.



STUDENT LIFE

Students take part in SciFest, Gifts to the Crib, Languages Week, School Trips, House Events and more!



Principal's Address


Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we come to the close of a busy and productive first term in OLS we reflect on all that our staff and students have achieved. The school is a hive of activity and each week gets busier than the last one. We have already promoted Reading Week, Friendship Week, Maths Week and TY languages Week to name but a few of the many initiatives.

It is also such a pleasure to see the large number of students involved in so many different extracurricular activities at break and lunch time. The GPA has hosted baking competitions, the November knitathon, table tennis competitions and the OLS Elves' workshop as it has now become a hub of school activity. The couches that were moved to the GPA for comfortable chats before school and during breaks are now a firm favourite.

The completion of the dome is inching ever closer. We are finally on the very last of the extensive snag list. Staff were brought on a tour of the beautiful new facility and they were suitably impressed not only with the size of the structure but also with the wonderful opportunities that it will provide for students, staff and the community. Sound systems, projectors and white boards have all been installed in the PE classroom and we are now just excitedly waiting for the official handover. I have been inundated with calls from other schools who have heard about our structure and want to embark on the same journey to enhance their facilities.

Our Academic Tracking teams are busy assisting all students who need additional support following the November assessments and there are targeted interventions being put in place to close the gap in their learning. Post assessment reflection sessions were warmly received by our students who recognised the importance of assessing their own progress to date and making adjustments where needed.

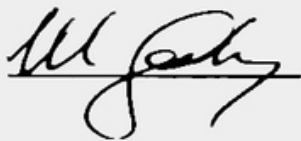


Principal's Address

We have already had a wonderful response to the November Knitathon for hats and scarves for the Peter McVery Trust. In a sign of the positive leadership that exists in the school our 6th Year prefects have organised a rota for themselves in the GPA 'knitting a square to show you care' and I'm reliably informed that knitting is the new rage in 6th Year!

Christmas is a magical time in OLS and our year always ends with the Carol Ceremony in the Sports Hall and our House celebrations. There are currently 5 House Christmas trees in the GPA surrounded by toys and food packages which will be delivered to numerous charities following our Gifts to the Crib ceremony.

I wish every family in our community a peaceful and restful Christmas.
Yours sincerely,



Marguerite Gorby

Principal





STUDENT UPDATES



A message from your Head Girl

Ella McCabe

My time as Head Girl of Our Lady's is flying by with house activities filling every corner of the school. House activities kicked off once again after we all arrived back after midterm. House spirit was bigger than ever with our House Human Body challenge, which tied in with Science week. Our junior years got put to the test to see how well they know the human body while the senior half of the school got a quick revision of leaving cert biology. All years worked together to combine their knowledge to win precious house points. The competitiveness didn't stop there as each house took to the basketball courts to play each other in Hot Seat. Members from all years represented their house to try to get as many points as possible. One of my favourite celebrations in Our Lady's is our annual Nun's Feast Day. This year the Religious of Christian Education were celebrating 70 years and Myself, Megan and Jenny all loved paying a visit to the Sister's to hear about their memories of their time in the order and in Our Lady's. It highlighted to us the special community we are all lucky to be apart of here in Our Lady's.

Here in Our Lady's we take Christmas festivities very seriously. Each house was put to the challenge of decorating their very own Christmas tree and of course there were house points up for grabs. As well as that our first years were invited to put their very own decoration on their tree to symbolise their first year in Our Lady's. The last week before term ended, there were Christmas activities to be seen all over the school. We introduced our first ever Christmas catwalk where each class decorated a Christmas jumper for their prefect, who then proudly modelled their class's creation on Our Lady's very own catwalk. To end the year on a high, each house council hosted their very own house meeting, which united all the years together and celebrated the house spirit that has been shown in the first few months of the school year. Following the meetings, the whole school took part in Our Lady's Big House Christmas Quiz. Laughter filled the halls of Our Lady's and fun was had by all as everyone worked together to get the last house points of the year. Going into the new year our house councils have chosen a theme which represents their house.



STUDENT UPDATES



B House-"The flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all."

C House-"A little consideration, a thought for others makes all the difference"

L House-"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving"

M House-"A helping hand can be a ray of sunshine in a cloudy world"

P House-"Leave footprints of love and kindness on every step on your journey"

Each house has been working hard over the last few weeks designing a banner which will proudly be displayed in the New Year to remind everyone of the values of Our Lady's.

I look forward to my last few months as Head Girl of Our Lady's as it has truly been an honour so far. I know Myself, Megan, Jenny and the Council all have big ideas for the New Year which we can't wait to introduce.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ella McCabe L6





STUDENT UPDATES



A message from your Deputy Head Girl

Megan Clancy

The Christmas period in OLS always evokes a feeling of warmth and community throughout the school. The classrooms and corridors have been decorated and we, the 6th year prefects had great fun putting up the house Christmas trees in the GPA. It's hard to believe this will be my last Christmas in OLS, I am definitely making sure to cherish all the events held around the festive period!

The annual Nun's Feast Day in November was as always, a wholesome and uplifting event, allowing an opportunity for the entire school community to come together and celebrate the sisters and the Religious of Christian Education.

The Nun's Feast Day also signifies the launch of the OLS winter charity drive. Each year we make a special effort to give back to those in our community who are less fortunate than us. It has been extremely successful this year with our November Knitathon and "Jingle all the Way" Coin Collection. Our annual "Gifts to the Crib" drive highlights the generosity and kindness of staff and students in OLS. We are also looking forward to the goal mile on the 26th of December raising vital funds for 'Goal' helping people less fortunate than ourselves.

There has been an abundance of events and activities throughout the term. Each week has been action packed with house events, games and sport for the entire school community to enjoy! The sixth year councillors visit their form class every Monday to let them know about the upcoming events and competitions. It is also a great way for each councillor to build a connection with their class!



STUDENT UPDATES



With the excitement of Christmas growing, it would be rude not to introduce some festive activities for students and staff to enjoy :) We decided to organise the first ever OLS Christmas Jumper Catwalk! Each form class made use of an old jumper, decorating it as festive as possible for their councillor to wear while strutting their stuff on the catwalk! This event evoked excitement and friendly competition amongst the school, as the house with the winning jumper won the much desired house points! It was a roaring success and definitely put everyone in the Christmas Spirit. Coinciding with the annual Christmas Carol Service was the House Ceremony. In the run up to this event, 6th year council members worked tirelessly on their personalised House Banners with their House quote. These are proudly displayed and will continue to be shown in the GPA for the rest of the year. On the last day of term, before the Carol Ceremony, students gathered with their Houses to celebrate their individual House. Each House Captain gave a background of the history of the House and Patron Saint, followed by words from House Mentors and 6th year Form Teachers. This was an amazing event enjoyed by all and finished the term on a high note!

I have thoroughly enjoyed this term, and am looking forward to all the events and activities we have planned for the New Year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Megan Clancy L6





STUDENT UPDATES



A Message from your Sports Captain

Jennifer Power

We have finally made it to Christmas and I think it is definitely time for a well deserved break following the very busy term we all had. This term, yet again brought many successes amongst our many sport teams throughout the school.

Both the Junior and Senior camogie teams are through to the Dublin championship final that will take place after the Christmas break. We have been so impressed with the high standard of skill the camogie teams have produced and we would all like to thank our coach Mr Cantwell for supporting us through it all. We would all like to wish them the best of luck in the finals!

A massive congratulations to the junior 1 hockey team as they won against NewPark Comprehensive in the Leinster schools cup. The thrilling game ended in 1v1 shoot outs and saw Our Lady's come out on top!

Badminton and basketball : A big well done to our U16 basketball team that have qualified for All Irelands knockouts which will take place in the new year. The badminton team have continued their unbeaten run as they beat Loreto Foxrock recently. Well done girls!

It's been great to see the dedication of the girls and the positive attitudes they have shown over the past few months and I hope they can carry it forward to the new year.

Happy Christmas!!

Jennifer Power L6



JENNIFER POWER - SPORTS CAPTAIN



STUDENT UPDATES



Student Council



The Student Council has had a fantastic term so far, and I can confidently say we have made great progress! During this term, we decided to schedule weekly meetings to discuss our plans and our ideas going forward; we created a calendar of upcoming events and made to-do lists to stay organised. In one of our meetings, we decorated the Student Council board in the GPA as it needed revamping. We included photos of the main leaders in our school and it contained a handful of inspirational quotes for those who pass by. Make sure to check it out! This was a great activity to participate in as it required teamwork and creativity. In addition to that, we met with Mr. Rhatigan and voiced our opinions on the uniform policies, canteen and etc... This was highly productive and allowed the Student Council to bridge the gap between the students and the Board of Management. Overall, this term was terrific and I am looking forward to the next term as we have some exciting projects ahead.



Clara Kinsella
Chairperson



HOUSE NEWS



House

Wow, what an absolutely jam-packed term we have had here at OLS! After the Inter-House Soccer League, the House from Home competition, and Maths Week's Inter-House Countdown before Halloween, we wasted no time in keeping the House spirit alive and well in our school community. We ended on a high with the whole-school Dress-up Day on the last day before midterm. Each House dressed up as a different theme to celebrate our favourite authors and books during Reading Week (B House: Roald Dahl, C House: Harry Potter, L House: Disney, M House: Pixar, and P House: Fairy Tales - along with some new, yet somewhat familiar students in uniform...).

After the much needed mid-term break, Science Week's ruthless Blindfolded Body Jigsaw Challenge saw students of all year groups dusting up on their biology skills. As well as this, the launch of the annual November Knitathon began our countdown to Christmas. Every student had the opportunity to pop down to the GPA to knit a square, to show they care. With all of the lovely hand-crafted squares put together by the whole school community, we are sending blankets to those who need them, via the Peter McVerry Trust.

Hot Seat was our Inter-House sports competition of choice for this half term. The competition was fierce, but P House managed to come out on top. As well as this, our annual Dodgeball tournament is kicked off!





HOUSE NEWS



Hot Seat was our Inter-House sports competition of choice for this half term. The competition was fierce, but P House managed to come out on top. As well as this, our annual Dodgeball tournament is kicking off - with every class keeping their fingers (and toes) crossed to win to get into the final... STUDENTS VS TEACHERS!

Finally, as Term One is drawing to a close, House spirit is turning to Christmas spirit in OLS! The Gifts to the Crib ceremony, organised by M5, got the whole school in the mood for the next coming weeks. It was great to see students from all classes in all year groups do their bit for the community and bring in so many generous gifts, which will go directly to our chosen charities of St Vincent De Paul, Saoirse Women's Refuge. Our annual Christmas Coin Collection is underway, and every pupil can 'jingle all the way' to the GPA and donate any loose change they may find around the house, and put it to some good use. The buckets are located right under the House Christmas trees which our very own 6th year prefects decorated in each of the House colours. The House events for 2023 will finish off with a festive Christmas Catwalk - where students will showcase their Christmas jumpers, put together by themselves and their classmates. The 6th years are busy making House banners with their new theme for 2024. We will close the term with our Christmas House Meetings, House Spirit Awards AND the Big House Christmas Quiz. Overall, this term has certainly been one to remember.





ACADEMICS



Study Workshops

Congratulations to Tara Gaffney L3 and Isabel Coghlan L6, who were the lucky winners of this fantastic study skills hampers! All 3rd Years and 6th Years entered a raffle as part of their 10@10 Study Workshop. In this workshop, examination year students received top tips on how to move their learning forward in their core subjects, as they prepare for their mock examinations. It was a really enriching experience for everyone.





ACADEMICS



Sci Fest

We would like to extend a huge congratulations to Nikishi Polgolla who competed in the all Ireland final of the SciFest on 18th November.

Nikishi began by competing in the regional finals of SciFest at TU Tallaght in May and was announced as the overall winner of 'The Best Project' award, 'The Life Sciences' award and the 'Tallaght Trophy' award.

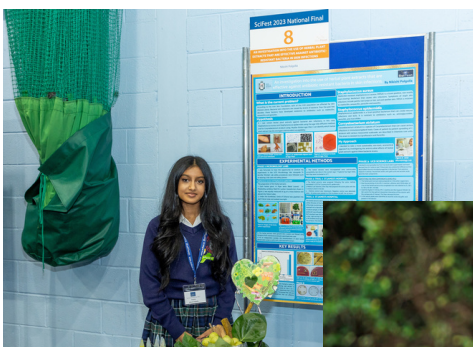
Nikishi went on to refine her project entitled:

'An investigation into the use of herbal plant extracts effective against antibiotic resistant bacteria in skin infections'.

She then competed at the all Ireland Final of SciFest on 18th November at Marino College and had incredible success by winning two awards,

A special category award: 'Irish Science Teachers Association (ISTA) award and an 'Award of Excellence'.

These incredible accomplishments are a testament to her relentless hard work, innovation and resilience throughout the whole process. We are all hugely proud of Nikishi and would like to extend our best wishes as she competes at the final of the BT Young Scientist Competition in January 2024.

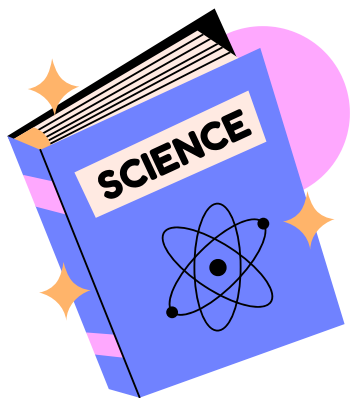


STUDENT UPDATES



Sci Fest

Well done to the 6th Years (Sophie Gorman, Lisa Noble, Maria Reid, Sofia Mohd Nazir, Elle Walsh Giguere and Ciara Fagan) who represented the school at the ISTA Senior Science Quiz at the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute in November.



STUDENT UPDATES

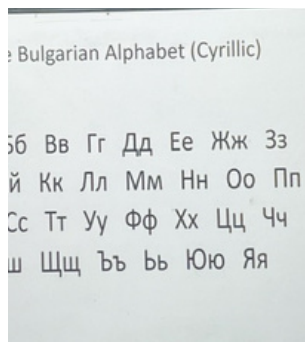
Languages Week

Languages week took place from 27th November. It was great to see and hear such an array of different languages around the school. Each day over the intercom, students spoke in a language and students were invited to guess the language. There were debating competitions after school and some fun workshops for students to get involved in. Well done to all those involved.



Bulgarian Workshop

Some of our TY students had the opportunity to participate in a Bulgarian workshop hosted by a facilitator from 'Think Languages' as part of the events of 'Languages week'. The students learned some basic words and phrases in Bulgarian, some interesting cultural nuances about Bulgaria and had the chance to make their very own Martenitsas, a handmade Bulgarian bracelet which is traditionally gifted in the springtime and symbolises good health and prosperity.



STUDENT UPDATES

Art Department



Ceramic by Ella Dixon, B5

The Art Department is going to resurrect the OLS Art Department Instagram account. This will be a space for exhibiting the wonderful artwork that happens in OLS to the wider school community. It will also be an important resource for student learning and a repository for past projects. We have decided to use an 'opt-out' system for participation this time. The account will showcase the wonderful talent in the school by posting students' artwork. The online safety of our students is very important to us, therefore 'comments' will be disabled on all posts and stories. Occasionally we may include some photos with the students in them. This may be if we attend a workshop, go on a gallery trip or are at Junk Kouture. If for any reason, a student is not happy to have their work included on the Art Instagram, or if they don't want to be included in any group photos, they should contact their art teacher for an 'opt-out' form. We will start to post again in January 2024, so follow us at @olsartdepartment on Instagram

Ms. Maguire's TY class are making great progress on their Junk Kouture/ReLove Fashion entries. But the girls need your help, and in turn they may be helping you with a bit of a clear out. We are looking for any old textiles, old duvet covers, sheets or curtains that you were planning to throw out. We are also hoping to source any old plaid clothes. This might be old pyjamas, shirts, shirts, or sheets or duvets. If you have any you could drop them into reception with a note to say that they are for the Junk Kouture class, the girls would really appreciate it.

STUDENT UPDATES



Art Department



Painting by Laura Killian, L2



Painting by Sofia Begley, B2



Ceramic by Ava Lewis, C5



Ceramic by Lucy Bulfin, B5



Field Trips



1st Year Trip to National Sports Centre

First year went on their school trip to the national sports centre on Thursday the 30th of November. They did lots of activities such as gymnastics, track and field ,basketball, handball, and gym.

The girls had a fabulous time learning about different sports that they hadn't done before.

Every instructor explained each activity thoroughly and made sure the girls were safe and having fun!!!

They enjoyed spending time with their whole year group and got to know everyone a lot better. Overall 1st year had a brilliant time at the national sports centre and would recommend going!





Field Trips



2nd Year Trip to Causey Farm

The 2nd Years went on their school trip to Causey Farm in October. They had a wonderful day out where they baked bread, took part in bog jumping, Irish dancing and got a sneak peak of Farmophobia. It was a great bonding trip for the girls and everyone had a great day! Below are some pictures of the day out!





SPORTS UPDATE



Basketball



Both our u16 and u19 teams had very strong league campaigns with both squads finishing in second place in their respective pools.

Unfortunately for our u19 team we lost by the narrowest of margins against a very strong Malahide team which saw us bow out at the 1/4 final stage.

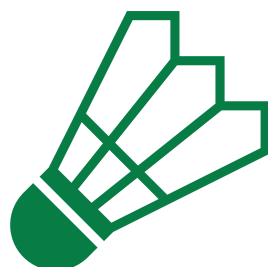
Our U16 squad have progressed to the All Ireland 1/4 finals where we will face Portlaoise in mid January.

On top of our team achievements individually we have some stand out players this year with Cody Cosgrove making the u16 Leinster academy, Eabha Booth on the U16 women's national squad and Rebecca Cleary making the U17 Women's National Academy squad. Post Christmas our first and second years enter league competition so exciting times ahead for the basketball programme.

Wishing all parents and students a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Badminton

Our Lady's badminton teams have performed brilliantly this term across all age groups! The U19, U16 and U14s A teams have all yet to suffer a loss with the U19s winning 4 out of 4 U16s winning 5 out of 5 and U14s winning 2 out of 2! Well done to all involved and let's hope the winning streak continues!





Hockey

It has been a great first term for hockey in Our Lady's where we have seen 19 teams in action from first year right through to seniors. The teams have all been in action in their respective Leinster schools leagues and we are well in the mix in 6 different leagues to qualify for the knockout stages and compete for the league trophy. We have played in over 60 competitive matches and have a win rate of 35%, with the Minor 1 team leading the way having won 4 of their league games and drawing 1, scoring 24 goals and conceding 0. The effort and application from all of the girls has been exemplary in all of our training sessions to date and we are really seeing the results of this now in some super performances on the pitch.

Hockey training started back in late July for the girls, with pre-season training for all age groups. The girls worked hard on their fitness and went through introductory sessions on tactics. We introduced a new Our Lady's School style of play and have really put emphasis on this throughout the first half of the year. This we feel will give the girls a great hockey identity and as they progress through the years and onto new teams, they will be confident in knowing the structure and style of Our Lady's Hockey along the way.

As we move into term 2, the cup season will begin and the girls will fight it out in their final league fixtures for the season. We have got great confidence in all of the teams and we know there are some great hockey days to come this year!

Well done girls on a super start and we are all behind you after Christmas in the business end of the season! Keep working hard in training and enjoying your hockey and we will see you all in the new year!





SPORTS UPDATE



Camogie

It has been a fantastic season for Camogie so far in OLS. The girls have been working very hard, training early on Thursday mornings in all kinds of conditions. This hard work has paid off. The Senior and Junior Camogie teams have reached the B and A Dublin Championship finals respectively. The Seniors continued their good form from the group stage and emphatically defeated Holy Faith Clontarf in the semi final. The Juniors fought off very good competition in the group stage and proceeded to defeat St Mary's Naas in the semi finals to book their place in the A final. The finals will take place in January. We wish the girls the best of luck!





Dodgeball



The dodgeball final took place in the Sports Hall on the 14th and 19th of December. This was a fun event that all participants really enjoyed doing with their teachers. The years that took part last Thursday were 1st, 2nd and 4th On Tuesday 19th, 3rd, 5th & 6th years played. The games were incredibly competitive and all the year groups relished in the challenge of trying to beat the teachers!

The 5th years had a tight game against the teachers but in the end their strong playing sealed a win for them. They were the only year group in the school that beat the staff. Well done to C5. This whole school event was very enjoyable for all the teams taking part and the spectators who cheered their year group and friends on.

Thanks to all the staff who took part and well done to M1,L2,C3,TY4,B6 on their hard work especially to C5 who were the only team to beat the staff.





ACTIVE SCHOOL FLAG



Run in the Dark

On the 14th of November, the active school flag class organised a run in the dark to raise money for the charity called Collaborative cures. Everyone came to the school at 4:45pm to get all their glow sticks and face paint so they could be seen while doing the walk or run. We split into 2 groups, one for walking and one for running, we left at around 5:30pm for an hour. We were all dressed in colourful clothes and cars beeped at us as they saw us dressed up.

Everyone's face was painted brightly, we were covered in glow sticks, and we all wore tutus. We all had so much fun walking along the roads in all our colourful clothes. We came back around 6:30pm and had to tidy everything up from the run, it was a very successful evening.





Goal Mile Walk/Run

Being part of the ASF class gives us an opportunity to help organise the goal mile walk/run on St.Stephen's Day in Terenure College. Last week, we went around the local area in our groups hanging up posters in shop windows to promote it. Each group was given a place to go to hang up the posters, the areas were Fortfield, Rathfarnham, Terenure, Templeogue. We had to go into shops to ask permission to hang up the posters and the majority of the shops and businesses let us hang them up which was a great help to us as it gets more word around about this great walk. We hope by doing this it will promote it better and we will have lots of people taking part on the day.

Come join us at 11am in Terenure College on the 26th, we hope to see you all there. Merry Christmas and happy new year to all!!





TY UPDATE



Welcome our Transition Year Update, a review of the educational and productive term the fourth years have had this year. So far, we have completed two development days, a trip to Carlingford, a session of work experience, learned from many guest speakers, received and celebrated our Junior Cycle exam results, and completed our Christmas exams. The past few months have been very tiring for all of us as we settle into our new classes and different subjects, but this has come with great reward. Through our ongoing assessments in rotation subjects and the independence of organising ourselves with work experience, all of us are learning new valuable life skills. We hope you enjoy our update!

We have participated in various Development days this term, which have provided us with opportunities to broaden our skills and knowledge. We have engaged in activities such as First-Aid training, Religious retreats, Town tours and Self-Defence training. These experiences not only enhance our personal growth but also equip us with practical skills that can be valuable in everyday life.



During Pastoral care, we have had many guest speakers in to talk to us about various different careers and experiences. Some examples include: Aoife Murphy, from the Agricultural Science sector; Shane Carthy, who talked to us about his mental health journey in sport; and John O'Shea, who talked to us about his life of volunteering and founding the charity GOAL. We are very lucky to learn from so many different people about such different experiences and gain advice for life.



From November 20th to 24th, we completed our first week of work experience. TY students went to a variety of different jobs and career sectors such as hairdressing, hospitality, retail and much more. During this week, we had the opportunity to gain valuable experience in a professional setting. It provided us with an insight into these various careers and will help us with our career choices along the way.

WORK

Looking forward to more enriching experiences in 2024!



EXTRACURRICULARS



Enterprise Trip



The Enterprise class visited a fair in the RDS recently. The students spent the day going around the fair, speaking to businesses, getting ideas for their own Winter Fair. They took part in a class competition to find various products. Finally, they of course also had a chance to do a little Christmas Shopping themselves.

OLS Enterprise Fair

The TY Enterprise class and 2nd Year Business class had a chance to show off their wonderful mini companies at lunchtime in St Joseph's Hall. There were lots of items on sale from scented candles to colourful bracelets. They had a range of products that staff and students enjoyed purchasing. Some last minute Christmas shopping was done by many! Well done to all of the students involved!





EXTRACURRICULARS



Lighthouse



The role of the Lighthouse mentors is to empower students through leadership. At the beginning of the year a group of 5th Year students were selected to be this year's lighthouse mentors. They undertook Lighthouse training in how to be a leader and mentor to their peers and younger students.

Each lighthouse mentor was assigned a group of second year students to whom they will act as not only leaders but as a friendly face in the school community. Every Tuesday at break time the mentors make sure to check up on they're groups and spread positive and encouraging messages while also keeping them up to date with activities happening around the school.

After house exams the mentors organised an excellent Christmas themed quiz for the second years. With prizes up for grabs it made for an exciting and competitive opportunity in which mentors got to know they're groups more.

Our most recent project is the lighthouse notice board, which was designed by our mentors and will contain important information regarding upcoming lighthouse events.

We are looking forward to seeing this year's lighthouse group explore their roles and organise more exciting activities over the coming year.



Amber Flag Committee

It was yet another busy term for the Amber Flag Committee where many smiles were shared!

We began the new term with making our new year and new members official and crafted our beautiful heart tree at the gpastairs. The term was long and tough with our house November exams approaching but the Amber girls made sure that the smiles didn't stop and everyone made it through ok. As the long awaited term ends, we've paired up with 6th year house committee for the Christmas jumper fashion show, where we will show off our best Christmas art skills. Finally, everyone should keep a close eye out for our Christmassy elves that are up to no good and hiding about the school! We wish everybody a happy, relaxing Christmas holidays.



Amazon GET IT Programme

On Wednesday Miraj Ranpura from the Amazon Web Services Dublin office came to give a presentation to the 1st year students about the Amazon Get IT programme and competition. AWS GetIT is a fully-funded education program and competition that works with students in schools—across 13 countries and 14 languages in North America, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, and Australia—to inspire the next generation, especially girls, to consider a future in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).



The programme helps schools bring tech role models to their classrooms and gives them a curriculum designed to help students build foundational skills, learn about cloud technology, and design app ideas to solve problems in their communities. The students gave Miraj a great welcome to OLS. They enjoyed hearing about working in the world of technology and about the AWS Get IT programme. Thanks to Miraj for visiting and sharing his expertise with the students. Any first year students who are interested in joining the programme which runs on Thursdays from 3.30pm to 4.15pm in room 32 should complete the form shared with them in their first year google classroom. This extracurricular activity will start on Thursday 11 January.



EXTRACURRICULARS



Debating

Friends, Romans and Countrywomen! Lend me your ears. OLS Senior Debating Society needs you! We meet every Tuesday at lunch time. Motions are proposed by students, covering issues such as single sex schools, mandatory subjects on the curriculum, animals in zoos, the rules of grammar... etc. In the most recent debate, the motion proposed was: "Christmas does not add cheer to our lives". A lively debate ensued as students debated how Christmas can be a time of loneliness and stress for many, while the opposition argued that Christmas can be a cheerful time if we lean in to family, friends and the more simple things that do not require getting stressed out about. In a relaxed atmosphere over lunch, students are placed into proposition and opposition teams, given time to brainstorm ideas and then they argue for 2 minutes for or against the motion. Debate is always lively and interesting and it's great to see our young adults disagree, argue, discuss and debate in a respectful and safe space. If any TY, 5th or 6th Year student would like to get involved, please come along on Tuesdays to Room 11 Ms. McAleer's classroom at lunchtime.

Spanish Debating



A huge well done to our 5th Year Spanish Debating Team who have been working tremendously hard over the past few weeks. Most recently they competed in the ATS Spanish Debating Blitz in St. Benildus College yesterday evening. The students had no easy feat, debating in opposition to the motion "We should put limits on Artificial Intelligence". Nevertheless, our speakers spoke fantastically but lost out narrowly to a team from Sandford Park School. We'd also like to congratulate our team who were involved in a friendly debate on the motion "Girls face more social pressure than boys" against Belvedere College. Again, the students worked so hard and gained invaluable experience.



Coiste

An bhliain seo, as a Coiste Gaeilge we have got off to a great start! We began September with updating our beautiful notice-board above the GPA, picking our mascot- Fuinneamh the bear, and elected our reps from the younger years. For November, our goal was to get the fabulous Club Gaeilge up and running and we were delighted to see all our Coiste Gaelbhreach reps and many others come along to play cúpla cluichí and make some Christmas decorations with frásaí Gaeilge for our Crann Coiste in the GPA. We are busy planning for our mural 2024, centred around our theme of house here in Our Lady's with the seanfhocal "Níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán féin". With Seachtain na Gaeilge soon approaching us in March, we are preparing for all the energy and fun it will bring! Nollaig Shona daoibh!

Saibh Gormley,
Coiste Head 2023-2024





LIBRARY NEWS



Hello from the new librarian!

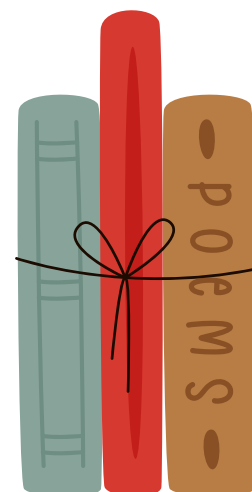
My name is Ms. Morin and I'm thrilled to be joining the OLS community as School Librarian/Public Relations Administrator. I'm a recent graduate of UCD's Masters of Library and Information Studies, having moved to Dublin a little over a year ago to pursue the course.

Although I just started here, I know the library was as active as ever during the winter term. Among their many contributions to maintaining the library, the student librarians constructed a gorgeous (and sturdy) book tree to celebrate the season.

I've several exciting initiatives planned for the new year, including writing and poetry competitions, a library-themed scavenger hunt, and a summertime parent/guardian-teen reading competition (all with prizes, of course). Additionally, from January to May, I'd like to track the number and titles of books read by the OLS community. Students, staff, and parents are all welcome to participate! Every time you finish a book, let me know and I will add a token (bottle cap/plastic lid) to a jar/container in the library. Clean bottle cap/plastic lid donations would be appreciated.

I'm in the process of reinstating the library's Instagram account (@olslibrary - please give us a follow!) and I'll be revamping the library's website: <https://ourladylibrary.wordpress.com/>. If you've any questions or if you're interested in joining the parent's book club, please reach out by emailing library@olschool.ie.

Happy holidays,
Ms. Morin





CHARITY UPDATE



Fright Night



The Kenya Charity Committee organised a wonderful Fright night for the 1st Year Students in October. The group of TY and 5th Years along with the 6th Year Leaders created a night of fun that the 1st years will remember forever.

There were prizes galore, a tuck shop selling goodies, raffle prizes and an array of fantastic costumes. Well done to the charity committee and the 6th year leaders for giving up their time to make it a memorable occasion for everyone. All the money raised will go towards buying supplies needed in the schools in Kenya.



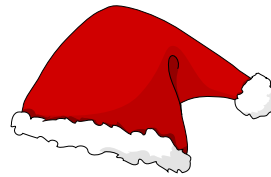


CHARITY UPDATE



Gifts to the Crib

Our annual Gifts to the Crib took place last week. Students and staff were invited to bring in Gifts for the following charities: **Saoirse Women's Refuge, Saint Vincent de Paul, Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin and Friends of the Elderly.** Well done to M5 and Ms Collins for organising.



Fundraisers

The L3 CSPE class ran a successful bake sale this term. They raised 540 euro for **Focus Ireland.** Here are some students from the class presenting Paul with a cheque for 540 euro. Paul spoke to them about his experience of homelessness and the work that Focus Ireland do. It was a very enriching experience.

Thanks again to L3 for raising awareness about this issue.



On the 28th of November 2023 Culture club hosted a bake sale in aid of **UNICEF.** Culture Club members brought in baked goodies from home and by the end of the bake sale we were sold out! The bake sale was hosted in St. Joseph's hall and there was an amazing turn out. It was fantastic to see the OLS community come together and help raise money for a very good cause. With the help of Ms. Filaih and Mr. O'Rourke the bake sale was a great success and raised €600 in total! All proceeds went to UNICEF to aid the Middle East. Aisling McManamon B1



CHARITY UPDATE



Knitathon

Well done to all of our wonderful knitters who took part in the annual knitathon.

For weeks now, the staff and students have enjoyed sitting in the GPA knitting and chatting.

We've wrapped up all of the wonderful creations and sent them off to Peter McVerry.

Thanks again to everyone involved.





CHRISTMAS ROUND UP



There were lots of wonderful Christmas events taking place this week. Form classes decorated their classroom doors and the 6th Year Leaders showcased their Christmas jumpers in a catwalk show!

Christmas Door Competition



Christmas Jumper Catwalk





CHRISTMAS ROUND UP



Congratulation to our raffle winners and well done to our two top sellers!





A note from our Chaplain

Advent greetings from the Chaplaincy! We have enjoyed another wonderful term of liturgies, prayer services, and events throughout OLS – each one a precious reminder of God's great love for us. The Le Chéile Council led our 'In November, We Remember' reflections and prayers for the deceased members of our community, as the student body had an opportunity to have their family members' names displayed on the 'Tree of Remembrance'. Many thanks to the RE class members who were also involved in putting this project together.

The Feast Day celebration for our Sisters' was also a very memorable occasion – L5 led our celebration to mark 70 years since Our Lady's began, and their theme was an apt one to mark the journeys of both past and present students: 'Sisters are the invisible strings that tie our hearts together.' My sincere gratitude extends to all the staff in the RE and Music Departments for their time and of course to Mr Walsh who organised the hall setup. Our girls led us brilliantly in prayer and song on the day – well done!

The Second and Third Year retreats took place also this month in December, along with our annual Christmas charity drive, 'Gifts to the Crib' – well done to Ms Collins' and M5 for your collaborations! To all students who gave so generously – your donations will be massively appreciated by the recipients and our partnership charities. Also in December, the Le Chéile Council attended the Taizé prayer service at Newman University Church on St Stephen's Green, and the girls got a real taste of contemplative prayer.

December additionally marks the annual carol service event organised by Ms Murphy and C5 – another huge treat that I will be lucky to experience as part of OLS! To all who have helped and facilitated the school's wider spirit and mission this semester, thank you. I wish you a most blessed Christmas, and extend my prayers to all students, staff and families – and for the world to experience God's mercy and peace.





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER





Advent Prayer

We pray, Lord, that each of your children may experience the gifts love,
joy, hope and peace in their lives.

Send your Holy Spirit to accompany all those who are suffering,
especially the homeless, sick, and imprisoned.

We pray for an end to all wars and conflicts throughout the world, be
with those on both sides and help them to reconcile.

May our time at Christmas be not only for ourselves, but all the people
we will meet.

Give us the strength to bring God's kindness into our world.

May the witness of our lives, prepare us for the birth of Jesus this
Christmas, and lead us towards hope and new beginnings.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



OLS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



*It's been a busy year, but we
wouldn't have it any other way.*

December 2023