

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

May 2024 | Our Lady's School, Terenure



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter the final stretch of the school year, I want to extend a heartfelt appreciation to all parents for your ongoing partnership and commitment to your daughter's education.

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. The opening of the Dome in January was an exciting event and this top class facility has really enriched the education of every student in the school. Even the visiting Leinster rugby players who arrived to present our winning BOI Money Smarts Challenge team with their trophy and €3,000 prize were in awe at the quality of the facility available for our students. The community is also benefiting from the numerous activities the Dome can host and we are well on our way to filling it in the evenings with a large number of local clubs.

As the end of the school year approaches it is important to reflect on the past year and plan and make improvements for the year ahead. We have had a busy school year with so many rewarding events. House Spirit Day was a positive community event where we celebrated everything House in both a collaborative and competitive manner. Our current and incoming student counsellors had an opportunity to use their leadership skills to organise 780 plus house competitors on the day.

At this time of year we review the many achievements and accomplishments of our students, staff and the community. We were delighted to celebrate the Graduation for the Class of 2024 last week and it was a very special occasion. Ty graduation was also a lovely event marked by a display of all the many activities that our TYs were involved in. They certainly had an action packed year from Carlingford and Paris trips to museum and art gallery visits, Gaisce hikes, barista training and days out at the zoo. Each student had their horizons broadened, developed academically and participated in so many new cultural experiences.

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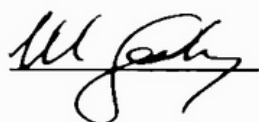
OLS Charities

The more we look outside of ourselves the greater our own personal development is. Here in OLS we promote student leadership in every walk of life. When you lead you think of others and give back to your community. From class captains to the student council, our student leaders promote charitable initiatives, acts of kindness and inclusivity as we all try to help others in our community. That strong social conscience is now flourishing in our school and it will be promoted and nourished here. The wonderful response to our first ever volunteering trip this summer to Kenya shows that our students are really engaged with the world beyond the. Over €20,000 has been raised to refurbish a kitchen in a primary school and the rest of the funds will be spent on supplies needed by the school.

The sun has started to shine as we enter the last weeks of the Summer term acting as a reminder that exam season is upon us. We wish the very best to our 3rd and 6th year students in their upcoming state exams.

I hope that you and your families have time to rest and holiday over the coming months and we look forward to seeing our students back with us in late August.

Marguerite Gorby
Principal



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD GIRL

I can't believe my time in Our Lady's has finally come to an end. The last 9 months as Head Girl has been an absolute privilege. The year has been filled with so many house activities and house rivalries all which has made my last year in Our Lady's so special. Ms. Flood and the entire council has made sure each week was jam-packed with loads of house activities running all throughout the school and our final term was no different.

As we all arrived back for our last term in school, we kicked off the house events with dodgeball. This got everyone out in their house t-shirts and the competitive side was seen by all -- everyone hoping to win the last few points for their house. Each house battled it out against each other, all hoping to win the prestigious house trophy.

Our council wanted to leave OLS in style and I believe that's exactly what we did. OLS talent show took place on the 1st of May to raise money for supplies for Kenya. The Big Badge Club put on one final performance -- of course performing to ABBA! Not only was it great to see so many amazing talents from all years in the school, but it also raised money for such an important cause. It was amazing to see everyone supporting each other and singing and clapping along (that embodies what house is all about).

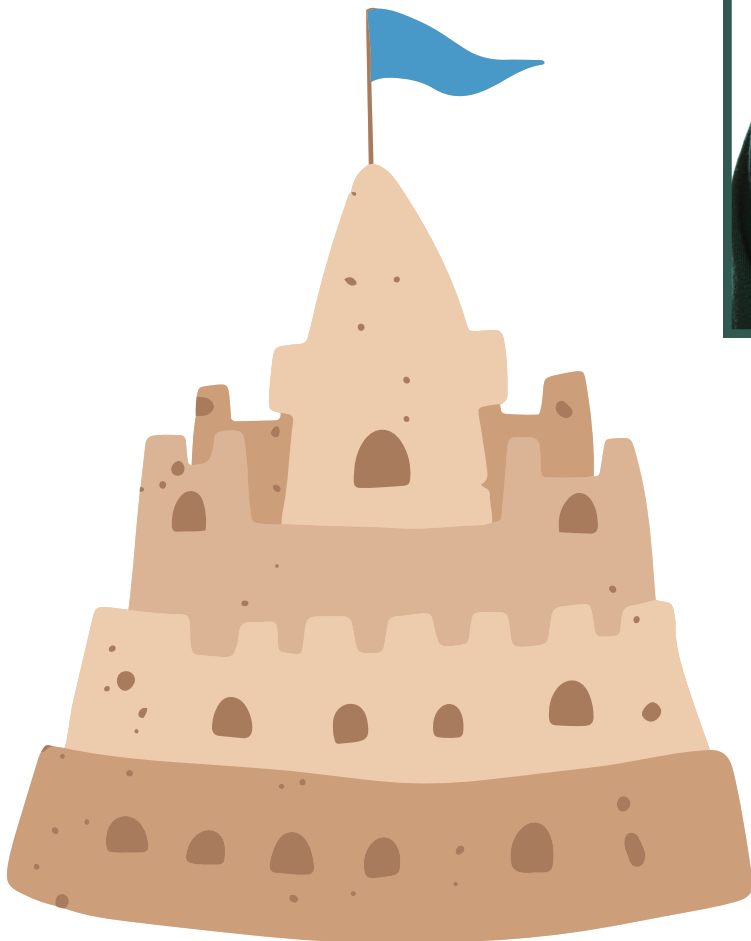
My favourite day in the OLS calendar came around once again -- HOUSE SPIRIT DAY. Both old and new council worked together to make sure house spirit was sprinkled around the school. Whether that be in the sports dome playing hot seat, the fountain playing hook a duck or in Joey's hall putting your music knowledge to the test, there is no doubt that fun was had by all! Of course house points were up for grabs and in the end it was M house who took home the House Spirit Day trophy. On behalf of the whole council it was definitely an unforgettable day where so many memories were made and laughs were had among all year groups. Its days like this that highlight the importance of our house system.

This then leads me to the end of my time as Head Girl, however I couldn't be happier to be handing my badge over to Rachel Davis. I know I am leaving the school in very capable hands and I can't wait to hear all the amazing things the new council will achieve. I want to thank my council as well as Megan, Jenny, Ali, Katelyn, Rachel, Iris, and especially Ms. Flood who made this year so successful. Thank you for keeping the house spirit alive and showing what it truly means to be part of the craziness we all call the House System. You are the reason it is so magical.

Lastly, I wanted to thank everyone who has made my time in Our Lady's so special. The house system is somewhere I have always felt safe and something that is so unique to Our Lady's. To be the Head Girl for 2023-24 has been the greatest honour and something I have always dreamt about. The memories I have made this year -- from the 1st years haunted house to the big Christmas quiz or the little interactions in the corridor -- I will cherish long after my time in Our Lady's. I have enjoyed every moment of it and am forever grateful for every opportunity it gave me as well as the people I have gotten to know. My advice to anyone reading this is, GO FOR IT! Get involved, try everything and have no regrets when it's your time to leave this wonderful place.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Ella McCabe, L6



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD GIRL

Hi everyone,

It's hard to believe my time in Our Lady's is almost over. The year has flown by...I think it's fair to say what a fantastic year it has been! Each term has been action packed with numerous house events and extra curricular activities for the entire school community to enjoy.

House Spirit Day, held at the end of April, was my highlight of this term. The eagerly awaited opportunity to test out the new dome for a full school event was a huge success. Each house, clearly identifiable with their house t-shirts, face paint, house mascot and even a few tutus, worked together in each activity with the hope of winning both Spirit Day but also some much desired house points! It was amazing to see the enthusiasm, energy and house spirit from everyone involved. Thanks is due to our fabulous teachers, for leading the way in each activity and cheering us on from the sideline. The day just kept getting better for M House who took home the glory!

Of course, my final term has been a little bittersweet. Knowing my time here is coming to an end has made me appreciate all the little things about Our Lady's, whether it's a wave or smile in the corridor, or lunches with my friends. Our final few weeks have been so special, with the graduation preparations becoming a much appreciated break from our studies. Our final day in Our Lady's was unforgettable, from the breakfast organised for us in the morning to the gorgeous ceremony and reception later in the evening. I enjoyed every moment and will cherish the memories forever!!

It has been a pleasure and great honour being Deputy Head Girl this year. It has been a wonderful experience and an opportunity for me to grow and learn. I am delighted to be handing over my badge to Maria Hennelly. I look forward to seeing how she moulds the role into her own and achieves great things!

I hope you all have a fabulous summer!!

Megan Clancy, L6



MESSAGE FROM THE SPORTS CAPTAIN

It's definitely fair to say we've had an extremely busy year with our schools' many sporting successes. The final term of the year didn't fail to impress us as we had a number of successes again between camogie, rowing, tennis and many more.

A big congrats to our Minor camogie team who are Dublin A Champions for a 2nd year in a row! The girls beat Dominican College 2-7 to 0-5. Well done!!

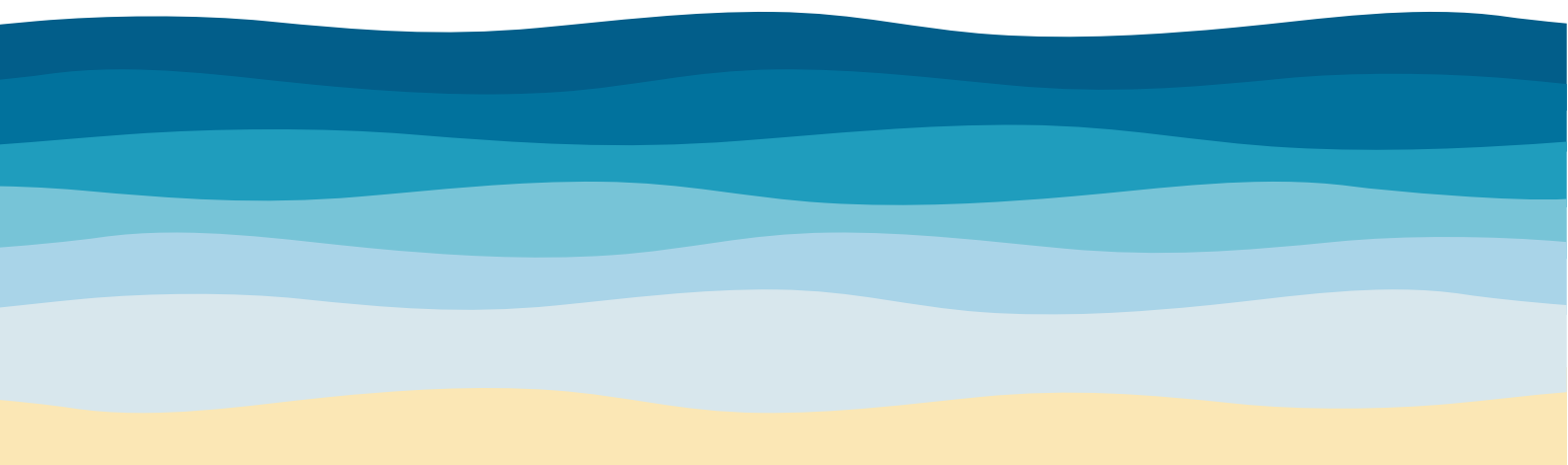
A well done to our athletes who participated in the West Leinster track and field finals in Santry in April. Congratulations to our medal winners Sarah Kiernan, Roisin Hanley Byrne, Molly Mullally, Alannah Giles and to our Senior relay team including; Elizabeth Farrelly, Aoibh McNicholas, Sadhbh Coogan and Sarah Kiernan who finished in 2nd place.

A shout out to Maeve McLoughlin and Kate Symth who competed at the WJ16 rowing competition in April. They came 2nd in the u16 doubles event and Maeve came 4th out of 24 boats in the u16 singles event. Well done girls!!

Double All Ireland Senior silver for OLS. What an achievement!! A huge congratulations to the Senior Swim team (Eva Walshe, Zoe Browne, Sylvie Marley and Laura Potts) who competed in the All Ireland schools Relay Championships. The girls competed in the U19 category and won silver in both the 200m freestyle and the 200m medley relays. Well done girls!!

A shout to Eabha Booth who recently represented Ireland U16's basketball in a recent Four Nations Tournament (against England, Scotland and Wales) where Ireland finished runners up. Eabha also finished the tournament as the second-highest point scorer for Ireland. A great achievement!

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Congratulations to the Minor tennis team who competed in the Leinster Schools Minor B tennis final. The girls performed very well but unfortunately were beaten by the Holy Faith Clontarf team. The squad this year was made up of all 1st year students including, Sarah Blessington, Grace Costelloe, Julia Hawkins, Charlotte O'Callaghan, Clodagh Fallon, Julia Quinn and Maeve Gannon.

Finally, a well done to the Active School Flag class who helped raise over €2000 for Special Olympics Ireland. The class got a visit from Anita Forde who won a gold medal for Ireland in the last summer's games.

Once again a massive congratulations to everyone who participated in sport during the school year. I hope everyone enjoys the well deserved summer break and hopefully the silverware will make a return to OLS next year!!

Jennifer Power, L6



NEWS BRIEF



Joy Ralph and the Ireland Women's National Under 19s football team qualified for the UEFA Women's Under-19 Championship in Lithuania in July 2024. Joy scored the winning goal against Austria to secure the qualification! We couldn't be more proud!



Congratulations to current 2nd Year student Alisha Weir, who made *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 Europe list! According to *Forbes*, she is the "second-youngest lister in *Forbes* Under 30 Europe Entertainment history (after Millie Bobby Brown in 2018)." Alisha is well known for her shinning performance as Matilda Wormwood in the 2022 production of "Matilda: The Musical." Her most latest film, *Abigail* (a horror film), opened this term.



Caoimhe Mooney's story "The Clinical Clock" was published in the Museum of Literature Ireland's anthology *Let the Words Look After You*. Caoimhe wrote the story while taking part in the 2023 Edna O'Brien Young Writers Bursary program. A copy of the anthology is available for checkout at the school library. The book can be purchased at the Museum of Literature Ireland's website. We're so proud!

Hello 
SUMMER 



SHREK JR

This year as the TY Musical class we created our very own production of Shrek the Musical Jr. We enjoyed every second of it! It was a jam packed couple of weeks leading up to the musical but we are very glad to say that it really came together in the end. Let's take you all the way back to September, which feels like a very long time ago now but nevertheless this is where we found out about the dreaded audition process. We started firstly with singing which then led onto acting and last but not least dancing. It was great to see everyone perform and some hidden talents were definitely discovered. This process lasted a few weeks until Ms. Reilly and Ms. Finnegan announced the cast. As soon as the cast was announced, we launched ourselves straight into the musical. We had classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays which we all looked forward to as it allowed us to have fun and get moving. As soon as the Christmas break had passed and the countdown to the musical was on, it was decided that we were probably in need of an extra few Friday rehearsals after school. Time was ticking and we still had things to do, but we all worked together in order to get costumes organised and get leaves cut for our beloved set. The weekend before the show, we had lots of rehearsals which consisted of full run throughs and dress rehearsals. We really started to see the whole show come together and we were so proud of it.

Finally show week was here and we were all really excited. We couldn't wait to finally perform all of our hard work which we had been putting in for the past 8 months. On Tuesday morning, we performed for the 6th classers at St. Pius. They all really enjoyed it and it was great for us to see. This made us even more excited for the Tuesday night show, as we couldn't wait to show all of our family and friends. There was excitement and nerves in the air for everyone every night, but we were all there for each other. By the time we got to the final night, we were all wishing we could start the whole process all over again. We would do anything to go back to the audition process in September.

The musical gave us the chance to make so many great friendships on and off the stage and it definitely allowed our confidence to blossom. It was also an opportunity that we will never forget and will remember for a lifetime. We would just like to say one last thank you to Ms. Reilly and Ms. Finnegan to whom it would not be possible without. Although we might be a little biased, we would have to say that it was one of the best musicals that Our Lady's has ever seen!

Lucy Somers







CAREERS WEEK

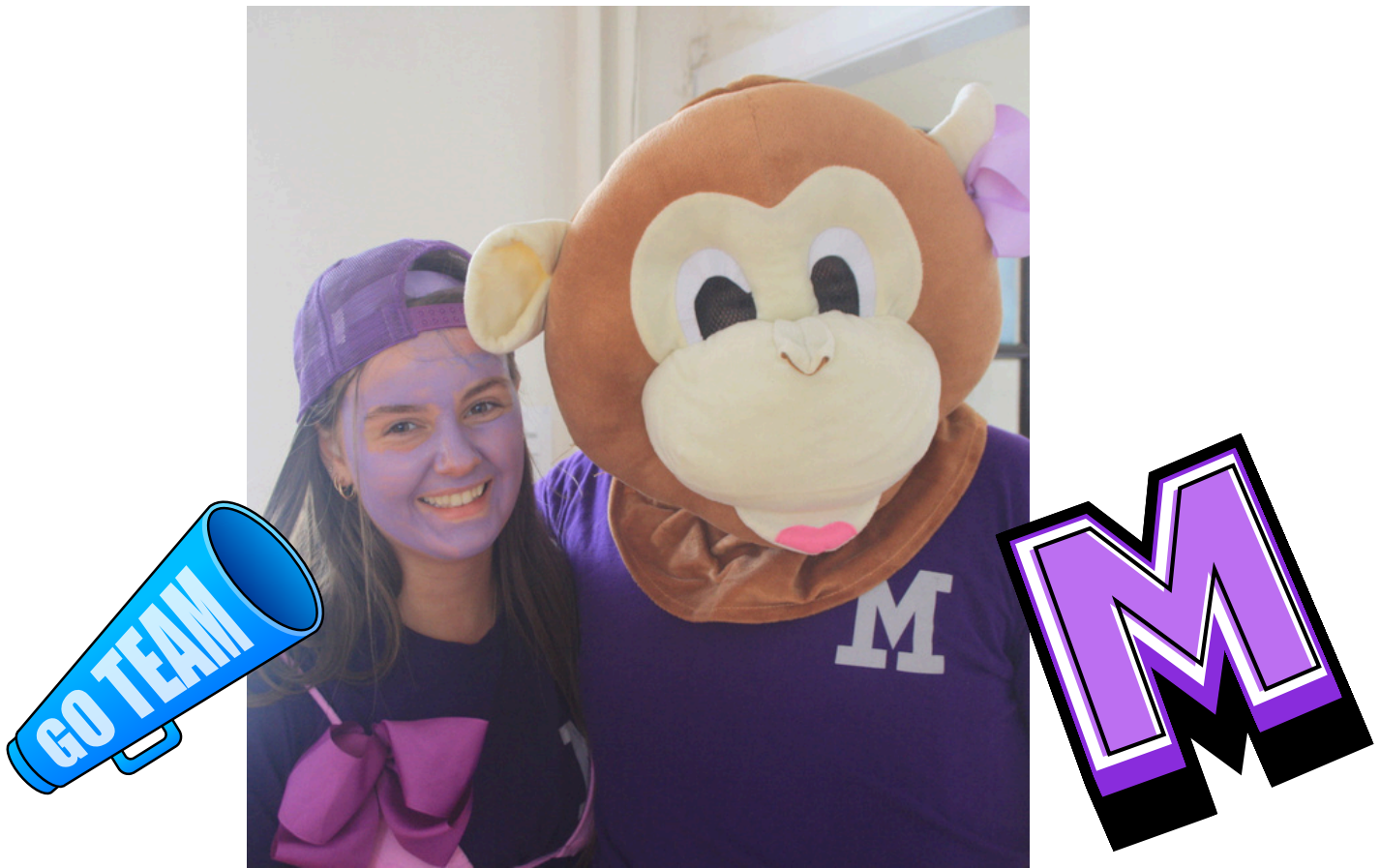
On Wednesday 24th April the TY and 5th year students attended the OLS Career Expo. A big thank you to all the participants who shared their knowledge and insights with the students during the evening. It was fantastic to see so many past pupils, parents, and representatives from various colleges and apprenticeships/training options attending. Many thanks also to Julie and Bevin and all the members of the parents council who helped run this event. Students got to meet and talk to people from a number of different professions. They also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from a selection of further and higher education colleges and learn about available apprenticeships. We hope the event helped students explore and research various career areas, helping them to make informed career choices.

Ms Porter



Spirit Day!

Students had fun participating in the OLS Spirit Day on 30th April! Pupils across the year groups worked together in their houses to make their way through 10 stations run by staff. Each station featured a different activity (tug of war, tube ball, build a bridge, hook a duck, hoop and noodle relay, B-Ball shoot out, and beat the intro). It was wonderful to see such high spirits! Congratulations to the winners, M house!





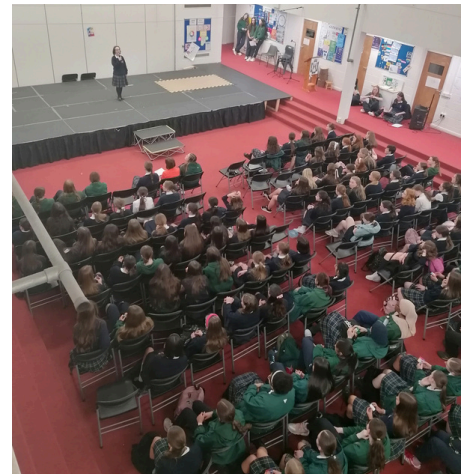


TALENT SHOW

SHOW TIME

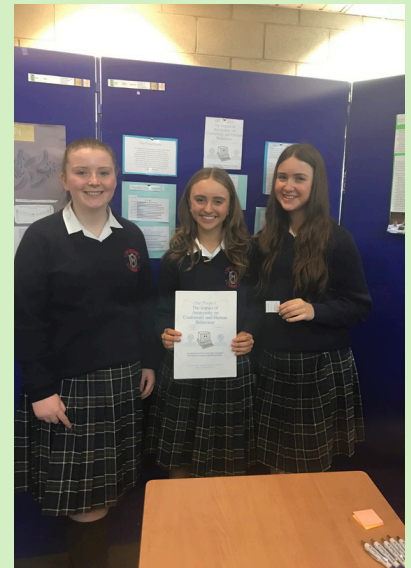
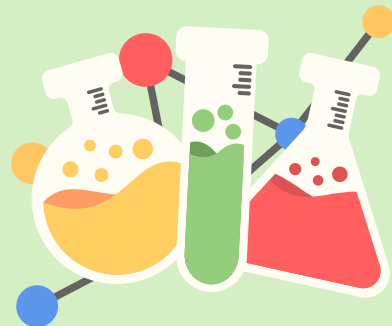
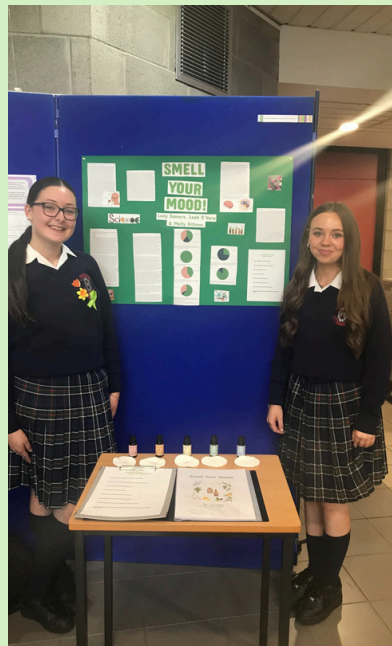
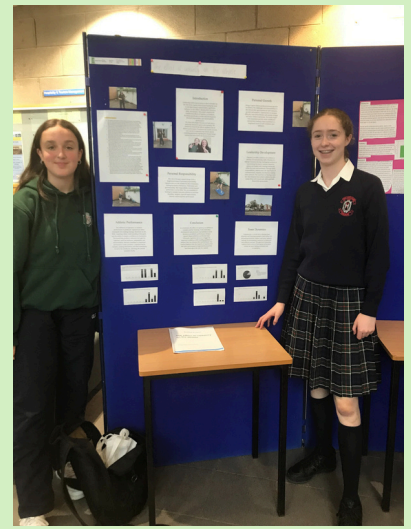
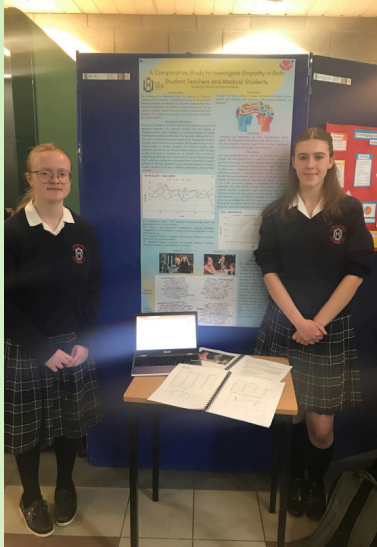
Congratulations to all the students and staff who took part in the OLS Talent Show. It was a wonderful afternoon of talent and really showcased the diverse range of talents in our school.

Thank you to the TYs and 5th years for organising the event and to all the students who attended and raised money for Kiboko Primary School in Kenya.



SciFest

SCIENCE



In May a group of our TY Young Scientist made it to the final of SciFest at TUDublin. All students showed incredible professionalism, innovation and Scientific rigour in the design and implementation of their projects. The judges were highly impressed with how articulate and analytical our students were in communicating their work. Many of our students are further refining their projects in hopes to re enter BT Young Scientist and SciFest next year, watch this space!



Bank of Ireland Money Smarts

On the 16th of April, a team of 5th Year students along with the TY Enterprise Class competed in the Bank of Ireland Money Smarts Quiz. I was a member of the 5th Year team and we answered questions on various aspects of financial literacy, in addition to some on general knowledge. The team consisted of Ciara O'Loughran, Kathryn King, Rachel Davis, and me (Matilda Murray). We were elated to find out that we had later won the quiz, earning an amazing €3,000 for our school! A few weeks later we were visited by representatives from Bank of Ireland along with some very special guests (Leinster Rugby players Ryan Baird and James Lowe). We were delighted to be presented with the Money Smarts Quiz trophy. We really felt that all our hard work had paid off. The whole morning was a big celebration and we were thrilled to be recognised by such a big organisation in Bank of Ireland and such brilliant sports superstars. Leo the Lion also made an appearance and got some photographs with our own mascots. A really enjoyable morning was had by all.

Matilda Murray



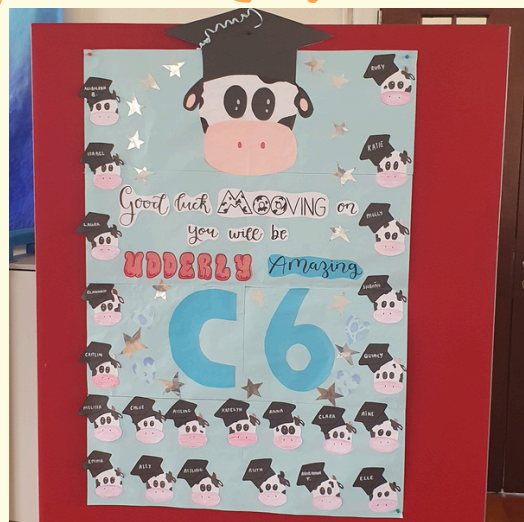
6th Year Pizza Party!

The 5th years arranged the traditional pizza party for the 6th years ahead of Graduation on May 16th.

It was a fun-filled lunchtime with songs and plenty of food!

Each 6th year was presented with a little bear in their house colour and some chocolate.

Well done to the 5th years on their super organisation skills. We wish the 6th years all the best with everything that lies ahead.





TY NIGHT



This year has truly gone by in a blink of an eye and I honestly cannot believe that TY is over. Our TY journey concluded on the 17th of May which was our TY graduation day. On TY graduation we were able to showcase all of the things we have been up to this year. St. Joseph's hall was replaced by its usual tables and chairs to an array of different subject stands. Each subject or activity had its own stand to exhibit all of the hard work and dedication that the students had put in throughout the year. No work went unnoticed. There were so many amazing initiatives like challenges and games to listening to podcasts that students had created in different languages. We even expanded from St. Joseph's hall and used the corridor of classrooms adjacent as we had so much to exhibit. Parents were delighted to see all of the things we had the offer of doing throughout the year. Then it was finally time for our TY graduation ceremony, so we all made our way over to the Sports Hall. The hall was beautifully decorated with lots of artwork and lights the students had put together. Some students welcomed the guests with their fantastic musical performances. Amazing speeches were made by students to give an insight into what school life was really like in TY. They talked about how we still do school work while also talking about the amazing highs like musicals, Gaisce, trips home and abroad and all the fun that was had along the way. The day displayed beautifully all that TY has to offer. I personally wish that I was starting TY all over again due to all of the wonderful, special memories that I have made along the way!



TY NEWS

On Tuesday, 9th April, the TYs welcomed Jack Kavanagh, who gave an inspiring talk about how to overcome life's anxieties, and how to build a healthier relationship with others and with ourselves.



Claire McGlynn (from Unit 1 Training in Terenure) visited OLS on Tuesday, 28th April to talk to TYs about nutrition, recovery, and fitness.



On Thursday, 2nd May, the TY students attended Trinity College Dublin and National College of Ireland in order to assist them with their career planning and research. The students attended presentations in both colleges, learning about the available courses and student life. The students also got a campus tour of each of the colleges given by student ambassadors. Many thanks to the school liaison team in both TCD and NCI for facilitating our trip.

FIELD TRIPS

Knock Trip



Ten 5th Year students along with Mr O'Rourke and Ms Shanley travelled to Knock, County Mayo for a Le Cheile Trip on Thursday, 18th April. They visited the Knock Shrine, the site of an Apparition in 1879 and took part in some workshops.

2nd year School Trip to Sport Ireland Campus

2nd Years visited the Sports Ireland Campus on Friday, 10th May. They had fun learning about the various facilities, shooting hoops, balancing on a balance beam, running, and trying out different ways of being active!



SPORTS UPDATE

Hockey

We have had a great uptake on hockey for the summer term from all. There have been sessions each week for next year's Minor, Junior and Senior teams as they prepare to welcome new players or move up an age group from next September on. The focus has been on basic skills and getting to know new team mates and it has been a great success for all. We are looking forward to entering the Minor premier league and Junior premier league next year after our two successful seasons in both age categories this year. The step up will be a great challenge for the girls but it is one they are more than capable of. Well done to all for all of their effort this term!

Tennis

The Minor A tennis team have had a super season and been the standout tennis group this year. They have beaten both Mt Anville and St Andrews and now find themselves in the semi final of the league where they will face off against Loreto on the Green. The result of the league will be known by the time the newsletter comes out, but whatever that may be, a huge well done to the team for a superb effort in all of their matches. They showed great levels of skill, concentration and determination to get to where they have and can be proud of that.

Rowing

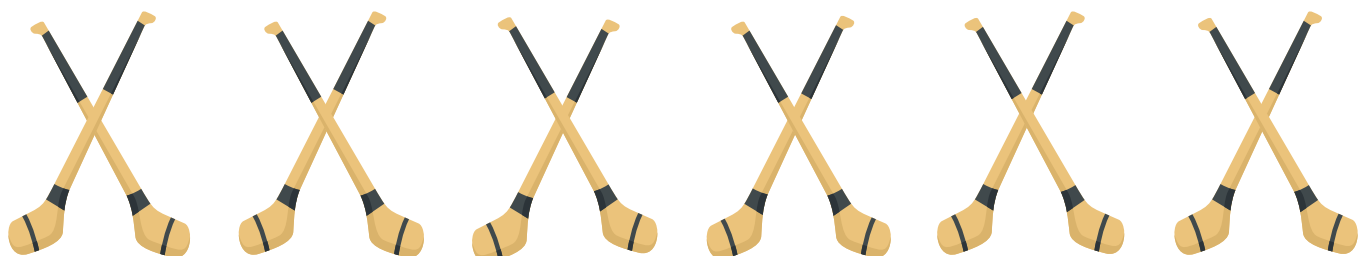
Well done to Maeve Mc Loughlin and Kate Smyth who competed at the school's rowing competition in Limerick at the weekend. They came 2nd in the u16 doubles event and Maeve came 4th out of 24 boats in the u16 singles event. Congratulations to both girls. We are all so proud of you here at OLS!



Congratulations!



The Minor Camogie Team became Dublin A Champions for a second year running on Thursday, 2nd May. The girls won by a scoreline of 2-7 to 0-5 against their rivals Dominican College. Massive congratulations to the team and Mr. Cantwell, the coach!



West Leinster Athletics

Well done to our athletes who participated in the West Leinster athletics finals in Santry. Our athletes worked hard across a range of events and did OLS proud with their performances. Congratulations to our medal winners who qualified for the Leinster Schools Finals in May: Sarah Kiernan (2nd Senior 200m), Roisin Hanley Byrne (1st Intermediate 800m), Molly Mullally (1st Senior Long Jump), Alannah Giles (2nd Intermediate 200m) and our senior relay team of Elizabeth Farrelly, Aoibh McNicholas, Sadhbh Coogan and Sarah Kiernan who finished 2nd.

U14 Minor Gaelic Football



Congratulations to the U14 Minor Gaelic Football team on a tremendous season!

Senior Swim Team

The OLS senior swimming team of Eva Walshe, Zoe Browne, Sylvie Marley and Laura Potts competed against schools from all four provinces at the All Ireland Schools Relay Championships on Saturday, 6th April. The girls competed in the senior category (U19) and won silver in both the 200 freestyle and the 200 medley relays. This is an incredible achievement yet again by OLS against the best in the country! Special mention to Ruby Marley who swam on the team at the Leinster championships. Congratulations!



IRISH Senior Schools
Senior Girls FTR & MTR
DOUBLE SILVER

EXTRACURRICULAR UPDATE

Green Schools

This term, the Green School Committee got some very exciting news as we were awarded our first ever Green Flag. This flag is awarded to schools based on the management and reduction of their litter and waste. An Taisce set out the following steps for a flag to be awarded to a school:

1. Green Schools Committee

This directs the school's involvement in the programme. Ideally, the committee includes students, teachers, non-teaching staff, management and pupils.

2. Environmental Review

A process of examining the school's environmental impacts in order to identify targets for action and improvement.

3. Action Plan

This gives specific and achievable targets with proposed completion dates that will show real success.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Constant monitoring of the programme ensures that progress towards targets is checked, amendments made where necessary and success celebrated.

5. Curriculum Work

Curriculum materials are provided that give ideas on how to integrate environmental issues into lessons.

6. Informing and Involving

A publicity programme keeps the school and wider community involved and informed through displays, assemblies and press coverage.

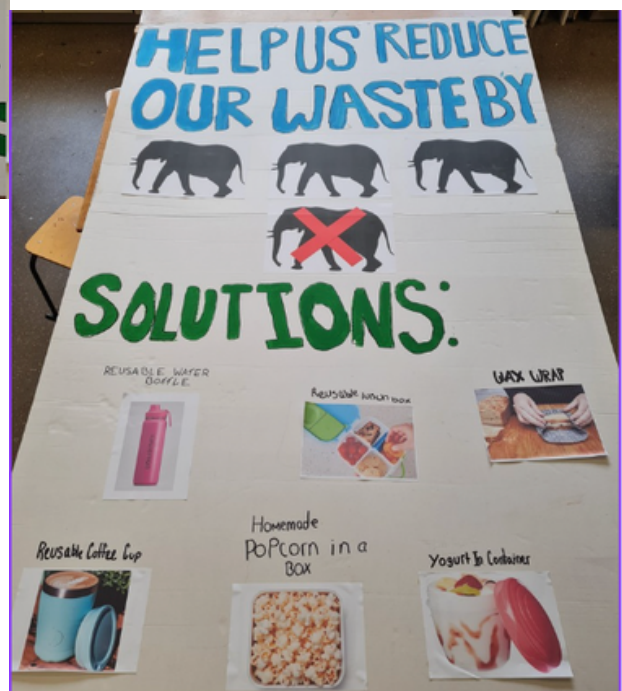
7. Green Code

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This is a statement of the school's commitment to environmental good habits. Our Green School Committee had been up and running for two years. In that space of time, we completed all of the above steps. Roisin, who works for An Taisce, came to visit our school and assessed our committee. We gave her a tour of the school and showed her all of our work. She was particularly impressed with our banners and our separate bins on each corridor. After the Easter holidays, we received the greatly anticipated news that our school had been awarded our very first Green Flag. We were then invited to the Helix in DCU for an award ceremony and a sit down lunch on Tuesday, 21st May. We are so delighted to have been awarded the flag. We look forward to all of the exciting times ahead in the committee where we will begin our quest for our orange flag - Energy Conservation. Thank you to all staff and students who helped us along this journey.

Ms Ryan



Active School Flag

We are the ASF sports leadership class and we have had a very busy year this year. A few highlights of our most recent term were:

TY Sports Day

On the 16th of May the ASF class organised a two hour long sports day for all of TY. We had five different stations scattered throughout the dome finishing with ice cream provided by the enterprise class in Lourdes hall. The stations consisted of rounders, just dance, dodgeball and tug of war. The entire year was split back into their houses alongside the ASF students who were leading students throughout the various stations. The entire year really enjoyed the two hours which were topped off with ice cream from the enterprise class as a fundraiser for Kenya. Thank you to all who donated money.

TY Night

On Friday, 17th of May we had TY night. It started at 2.00pm and we set up an active school flag & sports leadership table for the parents to come see and ask questions. We had speeches in the sports hall for the parents and where we spoke about the active school flag this year.

We also have had many more fun opportunities and events throughout the year, Such as:

Skipathon

Active school flag class hosted the 'Skipathon' event in the dome. This was a staff -vs- students event. Both staff and students had great fun and the staff team came away with the win.

Table Tennis Takeover

During October, we organised a table tennis takeover. Our class set up six table tennis tables in the GPA during lunch, leaving 4 rackets on each table for anyone who was interested in playing. We advertised the event by making posters, updating the school app and making an announcement. The members of the ASF class supervised the event. The event proved to be a huge success with students from every year taking part.

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Colour Run

The last event of wellbeing week was the colour run and it's safe to say it was a hit! The ASF class organised the event and the whole school got involved. We had over 500 students running through the paint stations. Everyone had loads of fun while staying active.

Dodgeball

We hosted a staff -vs- students dodgeball event. Each year group faced off against each other class until we had one winner in each year. These classes then went on to face the teachers. This event was held over two days during lunch, where our ASF class worked as refs for the matches and supervising spectators. The teachers won five out of six of the finals with C5 pulling through for the students and beating the teachers. The entire school had a great time at the dodgeball and we saw a huge turnout from students and teachers alike.

Obstacle course

The next whole school event we hosted was an obstacle course in the dome. This was another staff -vs- students event where lots of our school community got involved in supporting their teams. Everybody really enjoyed the event and our ASF class worked really hard to organise the event.

GoalMile

For two hours on Stephens day some ASF students volunteered to help out at the GOAL mile fundraiser. We were given different roles and t-shirts for the event in Terenure college. The event was a huge turnout over the entire morning with people from all over coming to run in the GOAL mile and we managed to raise a huge amount of money for an amazing charity.

Run in the Dark

On the 14th of November, the 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.

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Gym Awareness

Throughout the year our class aimed to promote awareness of our school gym. We sent out a form at the start of the year which included questions about using the gym. Some members of the PR and Research class then had a meeting with Ms. Gorby about our action plan including Gym awareness. We then tried to promote the gym through the App, Instagram and through the intercom.

Focus group with ASF in University Limerick

Some students from the ASF class got to take a trip down to the University of Limerick where we took part in a focus group with two other schools. Throughout the day we answered questions on our opinions on ASF and how we think it can be improved. We also got to take part in some athletic testing at the university. The day was so enjoyable and I think the whole class really enjoyed the trip.

Sports Leadership this year was a great class where we were all lucky enough to take part in events and activities. All of this wouldn't have been possible without the help of Ms. Doran, the entire class are so thankful to her. The entire year in Sports Leadership will not be forgotten easily and will remain one of the highlights of TY.



Debating

A team from OLS Debating Society took part in Trinity Mace Debating Competition in March 2024. Valentina Dowling and Caoimhe Brock participated in 3 debates. The motions were:

- Children under 10 should be given smartphones
- This House regrets the invention of cars
- Genetic engineering should be banned

Debaters were trained in the specific rules of Mace debating and learned a great deal about formatting, rebuttal and the importance of thinking on one's feet. The competition welcomed schools from across Dublin and one of the highlights for our team was winning the third motion where our team vehemently opposed the motion with aplomb. The art of debating is a vital life-skill. To see two sides to an argument helps us understand different views and respect different perspectives. If you are in senior school and are interested in joining OLS Debating Society, please drop into Room 11 on Tuesdays at lunchtime. Students are welcome to propose motions whilst Ms McAleer facilitates, chimes and sometimes joins in on the debate. Blinne says to bring snacks!



Parents' Book Club



The OLS Parents Book Club started up again in September 2023 after a hiatus during Covid, supported and encouraged by the School librarian, initially Ms. Kelleher, and subsequently Ms. Morin. We meet once a month in the Two Sisters pub in Terenure, and we chat about the chosen book. Some books have engendered much discussion and lively debate, and for many of us, it encourages us to read books we might otherwise not have chosen to read ourselves. Over the last few months, we have read titles including *The Glorious Guinness Girls* by Emily Hourican, and *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. One of the books that generated most discussion and was probably most recommended was *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell, an enthralling read set in Renaissance-era Italy which brought up themes of family, power, coercive control, intrigue and even art. Most importantly the book club is really enjoyable, sociable and a lovely way to meet other parents. New members are always welcome and encouraged to come along, the more the merrier. For more information, keep an eye on the school app, or contact the librarian Ms. Morin at library@olschool.ie



Lighthouse



Kicking off the final term of the school year, the fifth year lighthouse mentors made useful videos on study tips for the second years. However, everyone can agree that the highlight of the year for lighthouse was the 2nd Year fun day! Students were competing in their lighthouse groups to win points in various activities on the hockey pitch - 30 seconds, human charades, bang, a scavenger hunt, and an amazing obstacle course! It was a remarkable send off to the incredible year that we've all had. We wish the 2nd Years best of luck in 3rd Year.

Dulanga Liyanapathirana



It's been a year jam-packed with fun events for Amber Flag! Between "Wake Up Shake Up", bright and early in the PE hall before classes begin, fun games and calming colouring -- or of course -- Darkness Into Light, it has no doubt been a fantastic year for Amber Flag. Our goal for the year was to spread positivity and mental health awareness, to get everyone involved and to have a great time whilst celebrating our amazing school spirit and sense of community in OLS.

The highlight of our year was no doubt Darkness Into Light, which took place on 11th May in Tymon Park. We made stickers and spread awareness in order to encourage people to join in -- all plans overseen by our mascot Amber! The morning was a huge success, and was beyond a shadow of a doubt an absolutely beautiful demonstration of community and coming together.

Orlagh Hearty



Library Update



The school celebrated Poetry Day on Thursday, April 25th – some amazing student poems are on display in the GPA (see the photo gallery). During the lunch break, students took part in “blackout poetry” (where one redacts words from a magazine article to create a poem) and a Taylor Swift Vs. Shakespeare Quiz was also handed out. It was great fun! In the lead up to Poetry Day, the library (in conjunction with the English department) also held a Poetry Day writing competition. In line with Poetry Day Ireland’s theme, students submitted poems on the topic of “Good Sport” (sportsmanship, friendship, playing a sport, athleticism). The winner of the poetry competition was second-year student Aoibhe Tunney. Her poem was read over the announcements by her friend, first year-student May Brennan.

For the final Book Club, we drew character faces on small brown planter pots. Some students drew characters from books and others drew characters from a book they’re planning on writing. The planter pots will stay in the library for other students to admire as they browse the shelves.

Thank you so much to the incredible student library assistants for all your help this year! The library wouldn’t be what it is without you! A special thank you to graduating student and library assistant Clara Flinter. Clara set a marvellous example by dedicating her time and care into the library throughout her years at OLS. She’s left behind big shoes to fill!

We’re already looking forward to welcoming students back into the library in September. There will be some new lunchtime clubs (including a Lego Club), so stay tuned for that! As always, if you have any ideas for the library please get in touch with Ms Morin by emailing library@olschool.ie.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

‘And the Word became flesh, and dwelled among us.’ – John 1:14

Another day, another term, another year – all gone by in a flash. It seems like only yesterday I walked into Our Lady’s to apply here, was swatting up on the history of Fr Louis Lafosse, the founding of the Sisters’ Congregation, and the invitation by Archbishop Charles McQuaid to set up this school community in the 1950s – thankfully, I managed to remember that information when asked about it in the interview!

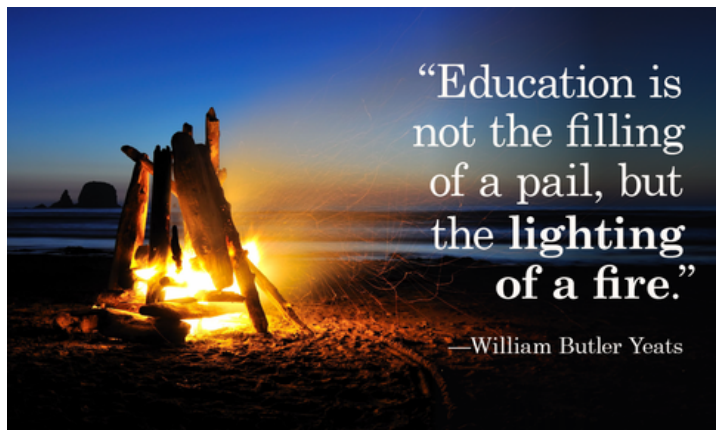
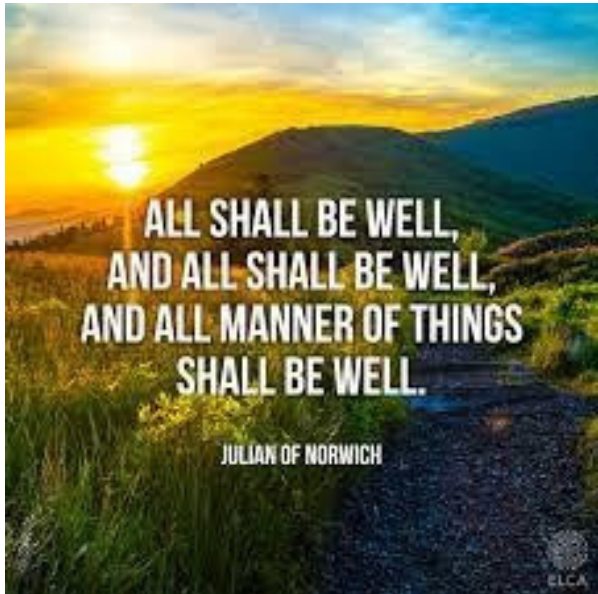
Some say the longest distance in the world is between the head and the heart; it is what makes the difference between what we end up doing with our hands, feet, and whole lives. Nowhere is this truer than in the classroom: the relationships between teachers and students, the potential for exploration, creativity, life, fun, and adventure in pursuit of learning all invite from us the best of ourselves. When we do it well, we can change hearts, minds, and communities – and our potential to effect change through schools can be enormous.

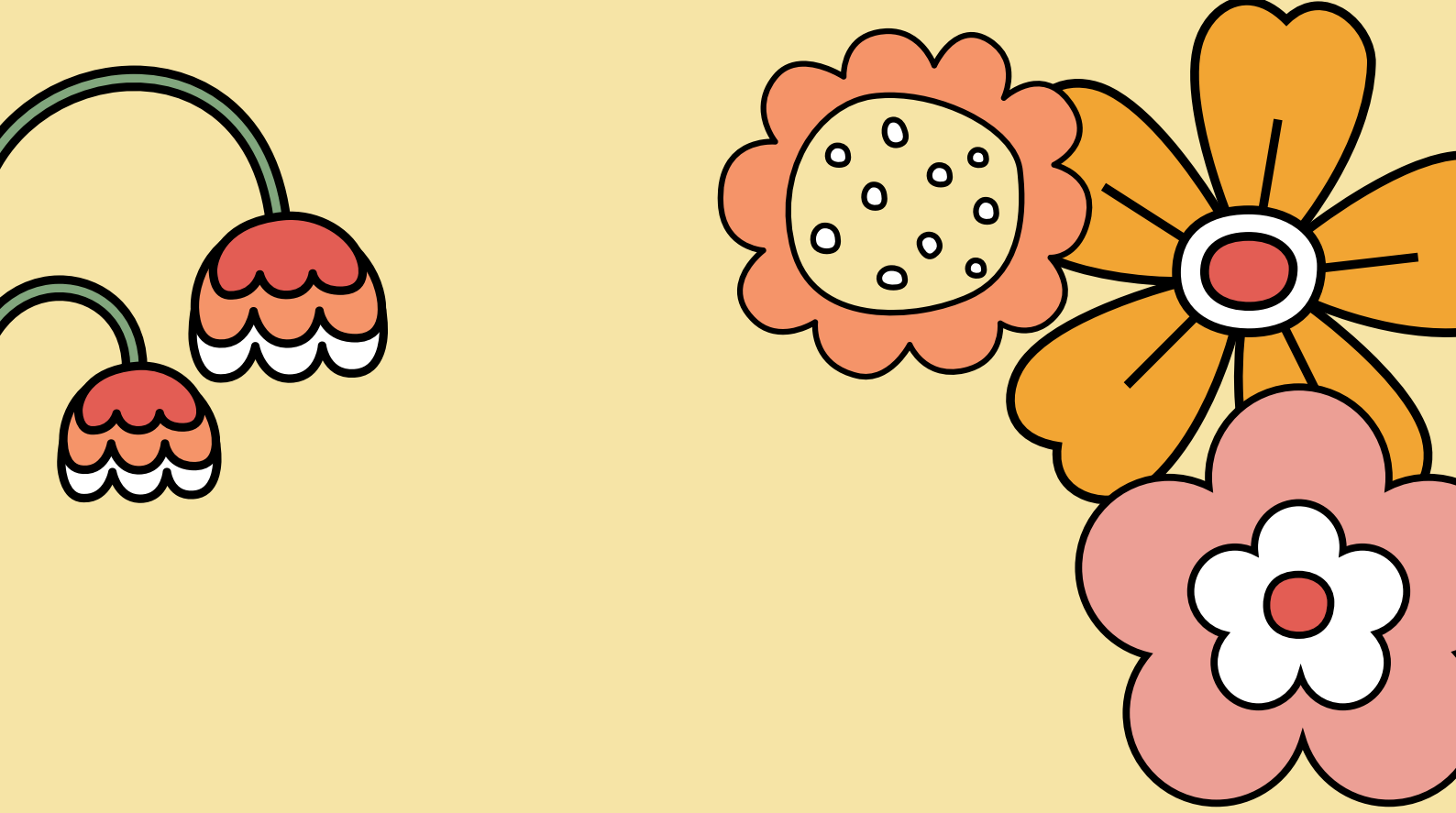
When I think about Our Lady’s School now, the pillars of ‘House,’ ‘Ethos,’ ‘Wellbeing,’ and ‘Academic Excellence’ have an entirely new meaning. They have come to life in all the different clubs, activities, and smiling faces alive encountered each day; they have become incarnate in our students’ friendships and looking out for one another on the corridors; they have become real through the shouts of joy, celebration, and songs shared at school liturgies and lunchtimes – in short, *we have lived them together*.

I am so grateful for each day spent at Our Lady’s – the wonderful people, the Anam Caras, leadership team, the teachers, support staff, and students here – all the laughs, insights, questions, and conversations shared have etched their way onto my heart – and I’ll not be able to pass by Bushy Park again without remembering them and the joy it was to work here.

Thank you for all your support, prayers, and well wishes – may we collectively ‘Mol an óige,’ with the faith and trust that ‘tíocfaidh sí.’

Mr O’Rourke





Happy
Summer!

