



# 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.



## SPORTS STARS

The Camoige Team crowned Senior A Dublin Champions



## STUDENT LIFE

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



# Principal's Address

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

As the festive season draws near, a magical atmosphere fills the corridors of our school. The crib in reception, the joyful chatter, and the warmth of shared anticipation remind us that Christmas is just around the corner. It's a time when we come together, not only to celebrate but to reflect on the values that make this season so special.

One of the most heartwarming traditions in our school is the Gifts to the Crib celebration, where students generously bring presents to share with those in need. This act of giving captures the true spirit of Christmas, reminding us that kindness and compassion are at the core of what this season represents. It's inspiring to see our students live out these values, offering hope and joy to others.

As we prepare to take a well-deserved break, let us remember that the most meaningful gifts are often those we cannot wrap—our time, love, and care for others. I encourage you all to embrace these moments with your families and friends, carrying forward the sense of community and generosity that Christmas brings. Wishing you a joyful and peaceful holiday season!

Warm regards,



Marguerite Gorby







# STUDENT UPDATES



## *A message from your Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl and Sports Captain*

Wow, what a busy term it has been here in OLS! Between inter house benchball, House exams and Christmas fun the term really has flown by. Even our house mascots have been busy visiting each of the year groups this term!

We kicked off November with a scintillating Science Week filled with activities. House spirit was evident in the Interhouse Body-Building science challenge that filled the GPA with excitement. There were House points galore up for grabs this term and with B,C, L, M and P currently neck and neck it's all to play for! Stay tuned for the Interhouse scoreboard which is coming soon...

In terms of sport there have been many early morning training sessions and hard earned victories with hockey and camogie competitions in full flow. For the first time ever, our Senior Camogie Team, coached by Mr. Cantwell, won the Dublin A Championship bringing home the trophy in style cheered on by our ever dedicated supporters.

Our TY's have had a busy term with Lab leaders, Barista Training and lots of Work experience placements. They lit up the school grounds and Bushy Park when participating in Run in the Dark where all the money they raised while fundraising will support Collaborative Cures which aims to bring people together to cure paralysis in our lifetime. The annual dodgeball tournament organised by the TY Active School Flag Class was another highlight as everyone's competitive spirits were unleashed with the teachers taking on the students and coming out victorious but a rematch has been requested so more on that soon!

In November we celebrated The Nuns' Feast day with the Sisters of the Religious of Christian Education. We thanked each of our Anam Caras for their guidance, prayers and warm greetings on the walks around the school! Our B5's put together a beautiful ceremony with a lovely quote, "Sisters are like flowers in the garden of life, blooming with love and nurturing each other's growth." This day was a highlight as it gives us the opportunity to celebrate the sisters of our community for the commitment they have made to us as students of Our Lady's School and reflect on their legacy. We greatly appreciate the integral role they play within the school community.



# STUDENT UPDATES



## *A message from your Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl and Sports Captain*

The run up to Christmas has been filled with festive activities with Christmas carols in the GPA, Home Ec classes busy baking Christmas treats, The Christmas Catwalk and of course the Big House Christmas Quiz! These unique events make Christmas time so enjoyable in Our Lady's. The C5's hosted one of the most generous Gifts to the Crib we have ever had here in OLS, with plenty of presents and supplies donated. These fantastic donations were sent to charities in the area including, Saoirse Women's Refuge, Crumlin Children's Hospital and St Vincent de Paul.

On the theme of kindness and giving back, our fellow 6th Years have been very busy using their art skills to create wonderful house banners. These banners will be proudly displayed for the rest of the year to remind everyone of the core values here in Our Lady's. The thoughtful quotes chosen by each house were:

B house - "Leave footsteps of love and kindness on every step of your journey."

C House - "One day you'll be a memory for some people, do your best to be a good one."

L House - "The very things that hold you down are going to lift you up."

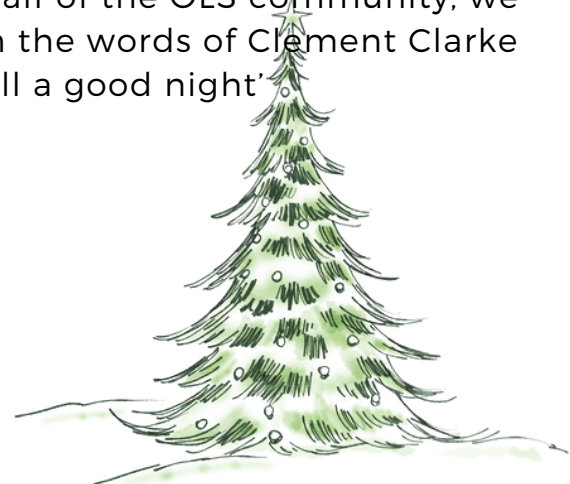
M House - "A little splash of kindness makes the world a better place."

P House - "You are the one that fills the world with sunshine."

To conclude this term, the L5's put together a fantastic and magical Christmas carol ceremony. The wonderful music from the choir and gorgeous decorations definitely helped everyone to get into the festive spirit. On behalf of the OLS community, we hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable break and In the words of Clement Clarke Moore, 'Merry christmas to all and to all a good night'

Nollaig shona daoibh!

*Rachel, Maria & Katie*







# STUDENT UPDATES



## Student Council



Hello OLS from the Student Council!

We have been super busy this side of the academic year, striving to create a safe and inclusive space for all students. Here are some of the things we got up to:

We secured a studyclix discount for students to aid in revision for all exams and to hopefully lower exam stress.

During the month of November, we had two students attend the ISSU regional council meeting where we discussed topics such as the typical secondary school experience and the issues that affect students in our regions.

During this meeting, the new regional council for 2025 were selected to represent the student voice from north and south Dublin. We are delighted to announce that one of our students Emma Killian from P6 was elected to be part of the council in January!

Last but definitely not least, the student council has given the notice board a makeover, and we encourage every student to drop in any suggestions to help make our school a more welcoming and comfortable place, or suggestions on how we can better address ongoing issues in the school that affect students.

Your student council is working really hard to make sure all voices are heard, no matter how quiet.

We wish you all a very safe, merry Christmas and a happy new year!

- Emma Killian & the Student Council





# HOUSE NEWS



## House



Wow, what an absolutely jam-packed term we have had here at OLS!





# SCHOOL NEWS



## Study Workshops

Congratulations to Ciara O Loughran, Keelin Murphy, 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.



## Hockey

Well done to the senior 2 team who travelled to Rathdown on Weds 18th December and came away with a fine 2-1 victory with goals from Hannah Long and Darcy Pemberton, both in TY. With 4 6th Years, three players in 5th Year and the balance in 4th Year the future looks bright!



## The BIG Christmas Quiz!

Well done to the M House!!!







# ACADEMICS



## Sci Fest



By: Kate Mannering

This year at scifest we had such amazing and creative entries and some talented winners!

Every year in our school we enter scifest, which is a science competition for TY students during their first science module. We are given a few weeks to work on our project in class and get to present them to judges in a series of rounds during the competition.

To start off the process we pick our groups and get thinking of some ideas to base our projects on. We plan our project, conduct some experiments and put it all together. The entries from this year spanned from physics and chemistry to biology and psychology. Some people even involved their grannies!

When the day came around we all presented our projects to four judges. Each round a judge would come by your table, examine your project, ask you a few questions and decide if you're through to the next round by placing a sticker on your project. Once you were judged by the judges you were submitted for a final judging where the judges have their last examination and decide on the winners for the different categories. The winning categories were physics, chemistry, biology, the environment, psychology and so many more. There was also a student choice award which was awarded to the group whose project was most popular according to the pupils. The winner of the student choice category was the creation of a colourblind app called bridging the colour gap.

Some of the other entries that were involved in the competition were: Inorganic vs organic fertilisers, words of encouragement in sport, swabbing our school and is the 5 second rule real? (spoiler alert: it's not!)

Congratulations to our winners and well done to everyone else who participated. I for one know we have some budding scientists up our sleeves!



# STUDENT UPDATES

## Sci Fest







# ACTIVE SCHOOL FLAG



## Dodgeball Finals

The dodgeball finals took place in the dome at lunchtime on the 2nd and 3rd of December. All the years are taking part with 15 people from the winning class in each year. This is a fun event that all participants (teachers and students!) enjoyed a lot. The years that took part on Monday were the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year classes and the 4th, 5th and 6th years were on Tuesday. They were very competitive games against the teachers and all the year groups. All the matches were very tight, especially the 6th years, with a tight game against the teachers but in the end the strong teachers side took the win. The teacher won 6/6 games. Well done to the teachers. This whole school event was very enjoyable for all the teams taking part and the spectators who cheered their year and friends on.

Thanks to all the staff and students who took part and well done to the teachers on all their wins:)

## Meeting With Ms. Gorby

The ASF class organised a meeting with Ms. Gorby to discuss our survey findings and finalise our action plan for the rest of the year.

4 students from the ASF class met with Ms. Gorby to discuss our suggestions. In the new year we will be hosting a colour run, step challenge and lots more! We look forward to doing these fun events with you all.







# ACTIVE SCHOOL FLAG

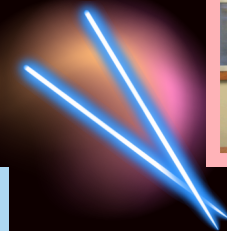


## Run in the Dark



On the 19th 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 5pm to get all their glow sticks and face paint so they could be seen while doing the walk or run. We split into 4 groups, some ran and some walked. 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. Thank you to the Active School Flag for organising such a fun event!





# ACTIVE SCHOOL FLAG



## 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.**

### Calling all volunteers!

We are looking for lots of enthusiastic TY, 5th and 6th Years to come along and help with the organising of the Terenure GOAL Mile on St. Stephen's Day.

Thanks to the great OLS volunteers in previous years, the Terenure GOAL Mile has been one of the top GOAL Miles in the country, raising lots of vital funds for the great work GOAL does.

It's a great fun morning for participants and volunteers so it's well worth making the effort to get out of bed and come along to join the madness and fun. If you are interested in contributing to the festive fun please join the following **google classroom: xofcm5y**

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 to our Transition Year Update, a review of the educational and productive term the fourth years have had this year. So far, we have completed a development day, a trip to Carlingford, a session of work experience, learned from some guest speakers, such as Jack Kavanagh and the Self Defense, 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!

During our Development Days we engage in activities such as First-Aid training, Religious retreat, Town tour 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.

On 20th November we held our very own Scifest which was a wonderful experience for everyone. There were so many interesting projects that students came up with.

From November 25th to 29th, 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.

Looking forward to more enriching experiences in 2025!



**WORK**







# EXTRACURRICULARS



## OLS Enterprise Fair



The TY Enterprise class had a chance to show off their wonderful mini companies last class on Friday 6th in St Joseph's Hall. There were lots of items on sale from fluffy socks to handmade jewellery. 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!







# 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 the wonderful C5 class and Ms Collins for organising such a meaningful event with such beautiful prayers, an inspirational message and some gorgeous singing. Thank you so much to everyone in C5 and Ms. Collins for such a perfect ceremony and thank you to everyone for your kind donations.







# CHRISTMAS ROUND UP



There were lots of wonderful Christmas events taking place this week as the 6th Year Leaders showcased their Christmas jumpers in a catwalk show!

## *Christmas Jumper Catwalk*







# CHRISTMAS ROUND UP



## Christmas House Banners





# CHRISTMAS ROUND UP



## Christmas Raffle

A massive thank you to the Parents' Council who did a superb job of organising the annual Christmas raffle.

We are so grateful to all the businesses and families who donated phenomenal prizes and our students who did such a great job selling their tickets. The raffle raised over €9,000 which means the school hopes to buy 5 more data projectors and bring to a close the three year project of replacing all the data projectors in the classrooms!

Well done everyone!



Congratulation to our 13 raffle hamper winners ... some pictured here! A huge well done to our top 3 ticket sellers: Lucy Breen, Keely Kenny and Jamilla Saidi!







## Christmas Carol Ceremony



*It's not what's under the Christmas tree, but the love that surrounds it...*

Well done to the L5's, Ms Donlon, Ms Byrne, Ms Reilly, the choir and the musicians for a truly beautiful and meaningful Christmas Carol Ceremony today. The theme, 'It's not what's under the Christmas tree but the love that surrounds it', was a message that resounded throughout the reflections and chosen music for the ceremony.

The L5's finished up by leading the school in an upbeat festive medley before we were treated to the return of the much loved OLS Staff Carpark Karaoke followed by the staff performance!

It was a lovely occasion to share as a school community and an opportunity to take some timeout from the busyness of Christmas to think about what really matters - the love and joy that surround us.





# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



## A note from our Chaplain

During our last term we remembered our loved ones who have died and passed into the hands of God. Our Chaplain at the time Ms Keogh created a Sacred Space where we could all remember our dead. During November it was a joy to welcome the sisters from the Convent during their special Feast Day. This whole school event was a great success. Our Le Cheile group and the wonderful choir were a fitting tribute to our dear Sisters. Special thanks to Ms Breen and Ms. Reilly for all the organising and preparation of the students.

In December we are marking Christmas by remembering Advent. This is the season of expectation and waiting. The pupils of the C1 class and the Le Chile group are highlighting this season with a lovely display in the sacred space, including decorating the symbolic Jesse tree.

Of course December means Christmas. Thanks to Ms Collins for her great work with C5 with the gifts of crib ceremony on Wednesday 11 December. This whole school event was a great success and everyone had great fun. The importance of giving at Christmas is clearly evident from the fantastic array of gifts brought in by our pupils. A heartfelt thanks to you all and to your parents and guardians. This is the Christmas Spirit and it is likely that some young child will have a little joy brought into their heart thanks to your kindness. The Charities to benefit this year will be Saoirse Womens Refuge, Crumlin Children's Hospital and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Our beautiful modern Christmas Crib is now in place thanks to Mr Walsh, our Caretaker.

It really does capture the message so well.

We are all now looking forward immensely to Carol Service on our final day of term 20 December. Our students are busily preparing for this whole school event.

So now that we are really in the mood for this special time we end with a short reflection:



NORTH POLE





## Reflection

On Christmas Day Jesus was born.

God became one like us.

Fully human but still fully God.

The little baby Jesus is vulnerable and weak, but Jesus is still  
God.

God is the supreme healer, the supreme friend, the supreme  
lover, the supreme life-giver who shows gracious love for all of  
us.

But the king of kings and lord of lords is the servant of all and  
the friend of sinners.

The so-called weakness and foolishness of God are greater than  
any human power.

God's power lasts forever. That type of power we see in the Crib  
in the face of Jesus.





# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER





OLS

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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

December 2024