



Our Lady's School



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

Have an inside look at the final term our 6<sup>th</sup> years had in OLS. (Page 8)



## OUR LADY'S SCHOOL

**MAY**  
**NEWSLETTER**

**2022**



## THIS TERM'S TOP STORIES

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



## Sport Champions

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





## PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

### Dear Parents and Guardians,

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 were delighted to celebrate an in-person Graduation for the Class of 2022 last week and it was a very special occasion. It was made all the better by the fact that each and every one of those gathered there were aware that we shouldn't take these important celebrations for granted. The presence of the sisters from the Religious of Christian Education was another clear indication that we have really moved beyond the many restrictions of Covid. We felt privileged to welcome them back in person to our community which is enriched by their presence.

Our Transition Year Graduation also marked the achievements of our 4th year students during their extremely busy year. From Gaisce awards to self-defence and a wide variety of certificates our TY students have again shown the school community the value of TY lies in exploring new areas and finding your passions.

The school Open Day was thronged with students and visitors and the beautiful May sunshine helped show the school off in a good light. It was however our positive and articulate students dressed willingly in their uniforms on a Saturday morning that really stole the show. So many visitors commented on how our students are wonderful ambassadors for the school. We held a small thank you party the following week for all those who volunteered to help. There were such a large number of helpers that we had to host it in Lourdes Hall. Yet again large numbers of our students step up to help when asked.

We will hold our first ever House Spirit Day on the last Thursday of the term where we will celebrate everything House in both a collaborative and competitive manner. Our current and incoming student counsellors will get a chance to use their leadership skills to organise 750 plus house competitors on the day and we can't wait to see who will be the first ever House Spirit Day Champions.

So much hard work has been done behind the scenes to get the dome project off the ground. We are very excited that this project is no longer a dream but fast becoming a reality. Our sponsorship walk on Thursday will help towards the schools' funding of the dome. The Sports Grant of €150,000 is a welcome addition but we have a long way to go to meet the final total cost of 1.6 million. The Our Lady's Sports Dome will offer so much to our students including basketball pitches, tennis courts, futsal pitches, an all-purpose playing area, changing rooms, PE office and a PE seminar room. We know that it will be worth all the hard work so see these first-class facilities catering for our students' wellbeing.

Best wishes to you and your families over the coming months and we look forward to seeing our students back with us in late August.

Marguerite Gorby

Principal



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

Marguerite Gorby



# STUDENT UPDATES



## First Year Reflections

### My Final Term:

My First Year in Our Lady's School has been amazing. I have partaken in so many different activities. For example, we went to Causey Farm and Alive Outside to get to know all the First Years. I have taken part in the inter house competitions. I have made so many new friends and I can't wait to learn more about them. Since I have come into Our Lady's I have started new activities. For example, I started hockey, green schools, maths club, drama club and basketball. I studied new subjects like Home Economics, Business, Science and Spanish and I really like learning them all.

-Rebecca Mc Donnell M1





## A Final Goodbye From our Head Girls and Sports Captain...

### Leaving OLS

“Wow, I really cannot believe that my adventure here is ending, what a time it has been! Everyone always said secondary school flies, but I swear I must have skipped a few months along the way. I wish little First Year me could see me now, all big and grown-up. I certainly never thought I would be living through a pandemic with hand sanitising, social distancing and masks being the norm for my final few years. Alas, even with that, I still had great experiences and memories.

For anyone who does not know me, my name is Julie Vaughan and I have had the pleasure of being the Head Girl of Our Lady's 2021/22. I remember every year looking up at the mature & put together Head Girl dreaming of having that honour, well...here I am with Sara, Orla, and a great Council by my side. I was truly fortunate with my form class P6 and Ms Stuart, who made the last six years so memorable with our talent shows, dances and festive treats. When I think back on my time here, I cannot help but smile. OLS has truly become a second home.



The friendly atmosphere is one of the most inviting parts of our community. The smiles in the corridors (or squinting eyes with masks), laughs in the classrooms and bonds between students from all different year groups and teachers, brings joy to our school. The House system also brings life to the school. It really is one of my favourite things about OLS. As an extremely competitive person, I absolutely love all the house rivalries and madness.

Our school also has such a wide variety of extra-curricular activities- that is where I really felt our community spirit. I took participation to the next level by filling every lunchtime with some sort of club, but it really is a wonderful way to have guaranteed fun and get to know girls in other years.

For me, I loved our Coiste meetings with Ms Kinsella on a Friday after school. My fondest memories came from getting involved in all our school has to offer, the highlight of getting to the hockey final in Third Year, Carlingford, the musical, winning our camogie final in Fourth Year, and winning the last talent show. The reason these experiences are so special to me is that I was part of something bigger than myself, I was part of a community.

There are so many things I will miss about Our Lady's, but most of all, it is seeing all the amazing people from staff to students every day. They are the reason my time here has been so amazing. Although I might complain about them now, I really will miss them when I am gone. Being Head Girl has been the most amazing experience. It has helped me develop so much as a person, but it certainly has been a busy one with all the random jobs and speeches. If anyone is thinking of applying, I would encourage you to grab the opportunity with both hands because it has truly been my greatest honour which I will always cherish.

-Julie Vaughan P6

“I remember during First Year sitting on the wooden benches in the sports hall, craning my neck trying to get a good look at the council members making their final speeches. I was staring starry-eyed at them in all their glory. The underlying hum of chatter throughout the award ceremony stopped when the council began to speak. You could hear a pin drop as the entire school watched on as the 'Big Badge Club' spoke their final words as Sixth Years. For those of you who do not recognise me (these masks really did the school community an injustice by hiding my face), I am Sara Devoy, Deputy Head girl.

I knew from that day in First Year, that if I achieved nothing throughout my six years, I had to at least get on the Council. Here I am six years later, making little baby face Sara proud. I knew I wanted to be on the council but when I saw the role of Deputy Head Girl, I thought why not give it a go. This is the attitude I would recommend you adopt. Worst case scenario: you do not get on but at least you put yourself out there! I doubted myself if I was worthy of such a prestigious role in our school community. I was not sure of myself and was nervous about putting myself out there. However, I relaxed that if I did not try, I would be disappointing my young self and probably my future self too. This is the advice I would give to anyone reading this who has even the slightest glimmer of wanting to apply for council or for any sort of role within the school. I know everyone always says this, but the six years whizz by.



I could not have made it through all these years without my class behind me. I get all teary eyed now thinking that this time next year, I will not be sitting down around a table with the girls I started with in primary school. I will miss school and I cannot even comprehend how I am supposed to go to college without seeing all my friends every day.

Being Deputy Head Girl has been one of the best experiences of my life. Aside from the general boasting rights it gave me, it has also been a chance for me to grow as a person. I have to say, I was a nervous wreck once I realised the role I had received. Especially thinking about the speeches (public speaking often leaves me in a breathless puddle of sweat). If this is holding anyone back from applying, please think again. There is so much more to this role than just speaking in public. At the end of the day, at worst everything goes down in flames but at least you can laugh with your friends while it is happening. I am eternally grateful for the year I have had and wish the best to all the future to come.”

-Sara Devoy P6



Participation in extracurricular is incredibly important for our social, physical and mental growth. Sport creates an escape from all the stresses of life and exam pressure and allows you to interact and socialise with your friends and create new ones! The benefits of keeping active are endless. This year OLS reached extreme highs, winning many trophies and reaching numerous finals. All these successes would not have been possible without the hard work of each and every one of you here today. I understand sport isn't for everyone. I can safely say the majority of my talents are not on the musical or artistic side. I have got Saffron and Amber to draw all the inter house posters! There is so much here available to everyone, that there really is no reason not to be involved.

You have all experienced the chaos, the cheating and the screaming mascots of the inter house. It is incredibly unique and special to OLS. I have seen new competitive sides to people through inter house, but more importantly I've seen one of the 5 c's, community. The way all the Houses teams come together, groups of us from 12-year olds to 18-year olds signifies the inclusivity of OLS. During sixth year, the importance of mental health really showed through. This year has been an extremely hard year for everyone. A few weeks ago, Ms Kinsella along with the amber flag group organised the darkness into light in Tymon Park. The two most common messages of the early morning I saw were 'hope' and 'it is ok not to be ok'. My role as Sports Captain is to promote healthy balance in life, mental wellbeing is equally if not more important than physical wellbeing, as 75 percent of people stated that exercise helps them to improve their mental health and wellbeing.



The multitudinous teams in OLS highlight the vast array of sporting talent within our student body. None of this would be possible without the support and encouragement of the coaches, our teachers and our parents. On behalf of the student body, I would like to extend our gratitude to all of our coaches and teachers who have enabled us to reach our sporting potential.

As Sports Captain, I would like to encourage everyone to keep active, to eat healthily and to engage in the wide array of extracurricular activities that we are fortunate to have in OLS. Sport teaches us to be team players, to build resilience and to be humble. These qualities prepare us for life and all of the twists and turns that it will take. Therefore, sport is not all about winning but instead about taking part. No matter whether you are an elite athlete or merely someone who likes to go for local walks, keeping active and healthy is the most important thing.

Finally, while we have had multiple successes across a wide variety of sports this year, we learn from failure as well. We build ourselves back up and we get back out on the pitch again, we live to fight another day. OLS has given me a lifetime of memories and friendships I'll cherish forever. The one piece of advice I give to you is to get involved.

-Orla O'Toole L6

## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Graduation

On Thursday May 19<sup>h</sup> we held our 6<sup>th</sup> Year graduation. We were able to hold our first fully in person graduation in two years. Our 6<sup>th</sup> Years were welcomed into school by a guard of honour made up of 5<sup>th</sup> Year students and teachers. Following this they had a celebratory brunch. That evening 6<sup>th</sup> year students and their parents were welcomed into the school for their Graduation ceremony. We want to wish all our 6<sup>th</sup> Years the best of luck in their upcoming exams and their future endeavours.





## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Awards



Roisin O'Neill received the Ann Brodie Award. Mrs Brodie taught in Our Lady's for 33 years and was Principal for 16 years. This award acknowledges a senior student who is a credit to Our Lady's and who has reached her full potential during her time in the school.

Sarochinee Ashe received the Father Carey Cup. Father Carey was Chaplain to our school for many years. This cup, presented in his memory, is given to a school leaver who has displayed high standards of public spirit, integrity and commitment throughout her whole school career.



Katie Lett received the Paul Cullen Cup. This cup is in memory of Mr Paul Cullen, father of Mrs Lyttle, who was for many years a member of the Finance Committee of the Board of Management. This cup is awarded for services to the community.

Julie Vaughan received the Orla Kearney Trophy. Orla Kearney was a past pupil of Our Lady's, who died, after a long illness, in the summer of 1996, prior to receiving her Leaving Certificate results. This trophy is awarded in her memory. It is given to a student who, like Orla, has striven for excellence in all aspects of her life both inside and outside school.



Shona Kelly received the Cathy Gray Trophy. This trophy is presented in memory of Cathy Gray, who died in a car accident whilst a pupil of Our Lady's. The award was presented by the Gray family in memory of their daughter. It goes to someone who exhibits qualities of friendliness, warmth and light-heartedness, qualities which epitomised Cathy during her years in school.

Louise Brennan received The Sinéad Harty Trophy. This award is in memory of Sinead, a pupil of Our Lady's who, after a long illness, died when she was in 5th Year. It is given to the student who has consistently shown qualities of honesty, loyalty, courage and truth in all her dealings with people.





Sara Devoy received The Leading Light Award. This new award goes to the senior student who has shown great leadership, positivity and community spirit and by doing so has emulated our school values and ethos and has encouraged others to do the same.

Aoife Campbell received the Sports Person of the Year Award. This award is to acknowledge and reward a student for her outstanding contribution to sport during her time in OLS. She excelled in sport both in and out of school. She has been fiercely committed to participation in a wide variety of school sports throughout her school career, mainly focused on Hockey and Camogie.





## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Pizza Party

The incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Year Council organised a terrific pizza party for the departing 6<sup>th</sup> Years on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. Everyone had great fun!



## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Graduation Brunch

Students enjoyed a fun filled brunch after their graduation rehearsals. The 6<sup>th</sup> Year team and incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Year Council entertained them with delicious homemade treats and house videos. The 6<sup>th</sup> Years enjoyed reminiscing on their time in Our Lady's School.



## Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Year Council

Congratulations to our incoming 6th Year Council Senior Leadership Team (CSLT) who received their positions this term. There is an excellent tradition of student leadership in Our Lady's and our incoming Student Leadership Team has big shoes to fill!

Leading OLS in 2022/'23 will be Róisín Evoy as Head Girl, Caoilín Dunne as Deputy Head Girl and Maria McMahon as Sports Captain.

Our Houses will be led by Rachel Dignam as B House Captain, Maeve Lydon as C House Captain, Abbey Kelly as L House Captain, Caitlín Evoy as M House Captain and Mary Byrne as P House Captain.

We wish Róisín and all her team the best of luck!





# THIS TERM'S TOP STORIES



## Official Opening of New AstroTurf Hockey Pitch by Minister Catherine Martin T.D

We were delighted to welcome the Minister for Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport, Tourism and the Media, Catherine Martin T.D, and Francis Noel Duffy T.D to the school today to officially open our new AstroTurf hockey pitch. Students from 1st to 6th Year spoke, sang, played violin and piano and recited poetry to the delight of all present at the ceremony. The Minister also spoke about the significance of young women participating in sport, education, business and politics and she was impressed by how articulate the students were.

Well done to all involved.





## Musical: Matilda

The TY musical cast and crew put on wonderful matinee and performances of 'Matilda' this year. Well done to our TY musical team! Our TY cast, crew and teachers received a well-deserved standing ovation on their last night performing 'Matilda'. Thank you to parents and families for supporting this event.

### Cast Reflection from Matilda

In the TY musical this year I got the amazing opportunity to play the role of Matilda. Ever since I saw the TYs put on a spectacular 'Singing in the Rain' when I was in first year, I couldn't wait until it was my turn to be on the stage. Due to the pandemic the first couple months of rehearsal were a bit weird with masks and everything, and there was a time when we weren't even sure the musical would go ahead, but I am so thankful that it did. The musical was, without a doubt the highlight of my TY and playing the lead was just the cherry on top! My favourite part of the musical was when the stage was assembled and the light and sound technicians came in, that was when it really sunk in that this was happening. Before my performance I remember pacing up and down backstage a lot and when it was time to go on my stomach was in knots, and I almost felt sick, but after seeing everyone on stage perform the first song so fantastically my nerves went away. I would like to thank everyone who worked on the musical this year, as without the tremendous effort put in by every single person the show wouldn't have been half as amazing as it was, and I would 100% encourage those in first, second and third year to try out the musical when you get to TY, it is so much fun and I can guarantee you will make memories that will last a lifetime.

-Sophie Gorman TY1



This year I was lucky enough to be able to play the role of Miss Honey in the Our Lady's production of Matilda the musical. I was Miss Honey in Cast One of the musical which was performed on Wednesday the 27th of April 2022.

As rehearsals began, they were very fun. We started learning our lines as time went along and we learned dances and songs as well. As it got closer to the time, we had some rehearsals on the weekend. Although these were long, they were so much fun, and we got lots of work done which was really rewarding.



A week or two before the show the anticipation and excitement was building. The stage was built, and rehearsals were becoming more regular. One of my favourite days coming up to the show was the tech run. This is basically where the tech crew come in and work out the lights and mics for the show. This was so enjoyable because we got to see it come together more. That night was the big night-the show!!

We were initially nervous but once we sang the first song everyone really enjoyed it. It was such a great experience, and it was a huge honour to be able to play this role. Thank you for reading!

-Rachel Vaughan TY4

## Master Class

The 5th Year Home Economics class enjoyed a culinary master class with Eoin Cluskey from Bread 41 who taught them how to make their own bread using the freshest of ingredients. Eoin spoke to the class about the importance of culinary skills, organic produce and additive free food.





## **Olympic Visit**

We were delighted to welcome gold medal Olympic boxer and trainer, Michael Carruth to the school as part of Wellbeing Week. He spoke to the whole school about his sporting experience and the significance of self-belief. Elizabeth McElroy P2 presented Michael Carruth with a framed portrait which she had painted to mark the occasion. It was a most inspiring event.



## **Toyota Dream Car Art Contest Winner**

Congratulations to Elizabeth McElroy P2 who won the 15th Toyota Dream Art Contest with her superb design of a sustainable motorbike complete with solar panels and pollen generated energy! Elizabeth's artwork will now be adjudicated in Japan at an international art competition. We wish her the very best of luck!



## Visit by Senator Eileen Flynn

We were delighted to welcome Senator Eileen Flynn to the school where she spoke to our First-Year students about inclusivity and education. She spoke passionately about marginalised groups in Irish society and how she has raised awareness in the Oireachtas and Seanad.



## Inter-House Relay Competition

This term our students took part in the Inter- House Relay competition. Victory was won by House L. Well done to everyone who participated. Thank you to all the staff and students who came out to support their house teams and create an exciting atmosphere.



## Affirmation Ceremony

Well done to all of our student leaders who received certificates this term at our Affirmation Ceremony in recognition of their leadership work throughout the school. These student leaders demonstrate the school values of courage, compassion, community, charity and conscience which inspires all of us.



## Cyber Week

After a well-earned midterm break, OLS had its inaugural Cyber Week. Under the keen eye of our Second Year and TY Digital Champions, this week was focused on showcasing the opportunities and possibilities that the digital space can offer. It was a very fun-filled week.

Our TechTalk series was a huge success, with talks on Robotics, Sports Science and more. This gave the students an insight into the different opportunities that technology can provide as a career path. As well as that, we ran a series of memorable activities. Our Minecraft club showcased their creative skills in Room 32, and made it clear that the possibilities are endless in that game! Mr McGirl ran an Intro to Coding class which proved very popular with our aspiring hackers. We delved into the world of Virtual Reality as students got the chance to transport themselves into many different places and situations with the VR sets. Our future engineers did great work putting together DigiWhiz models which ranged from electric cars to voice recorder sets. The sky's the limit for our students!

A huge highlight of the week was a visit from the gaming van, where our students with the most merits were treated to some cyber therapy with a number of fun games on different consoles. Overall, the week was a great start and a huge success. We are very keen to see what Cyber Week 2023 will bring!





## Seachtain Na Gaeilge



In March we had Seachtain na Gaeilge. The week (or ten days to be more precise) was full of origami, posters, stickers, charades, kahoot quizzes and so much more. We wanted everyone to use their cúpla focal. No doubt the highlight was seeing the whole school gathered on the astro pitch for our Céilí Mór, led by Caoilin Dunne. The sun even came out as we all did our 'ballaí Luimní' and 'An Dreoilín'. The perfect end to a great week! Well done and a 'bualadh bos mór' to our Seachtain na Gaeilge winners.

## Career Expo

The 5th Years attended our Careers Expo last night and had the opportunity to speak to medical professionals, the Gardai, solicitors, engineers, librarians and the Irish Army to name but a few professions.





## Wellbeing Week

This year, our Wellbeing Week was a roaring success as life was beginning to return to normal. On Friday, our 6th Years started off the week by taking part in a Pilates class hosted by Ciarán from The BodyFul. While the rest of the school watched a video from Ciarán and Alannah on how to keep ourselves well.

On Monday, our very own Ms Finnegan hosted a wonderful breathwork and meditation session which left us all feeling very zen. A huge thank you to Ms Finnegan for taking the time to record this. That evening, a whole school assembly was hosted by Michael Carruth who came in to tell us about his journey of becoming Olympic Gold Medallist. The Leaving Cert PE and ASF classes came to watch and even had a Q&A session after.

On Tuesday, the 1st and 2nd Years had a very informative zoom call with AsIAM who taught us all about Autism awareness. Meanwhile, the rest of the school listened to past pupil, Maeve Cummins telling us all about the gym and her 'Learn to Lift' programme. It was great to have a past pupil taking part in Wellbeing Week.

On Wednesday, we were all put through our paces when Coach Allan arrived from Drimnagh Boxing Club to host a training session. Some different lunch time activities were; LGBTQIA+ Club Launch, Buddy Walk, Open Mic, ASF walk, rowing competition, bake sale, bake off, drumming workshop, planting and a film day.

A huge thank you to all staff and students who helped with the brilliant running of the week. Well done to all and we are already looking forward to Wellbeing Week 2023.



## Iceland Trip



During the Easter Break 5<sup>th</sup> Year Geography students went on a trip to Iceland. They visited amazing sites such as the Blue Lagoon and Fagradalsfjall Volcano. The group also took a tour of the Golden Circler which includes the natural wonders of Iceland including Geysit geothermal area and Gullfoss waterfall. They finished the trip by taking a glacier walk. Overall, the trip was a great success. Thank you to Mr Rhatigan for organising the trip and to all of the teachers who accompanied the students.

## Open Day

This May, we were delighted to welcome both the parents and students of incoming first years. Also the parents of current second and third year students to Our Lady's. It was exciting to get the opportunity to showcase all the amazing facilities and extracurricular activities available in OLS. Both academic and sporting excellence, something we haven't been able to do the past two years.

Parents were greeted by our Head Girl, Julie Vaughan, and Deputy Head Girl, Sara Devoy, and then treated to a tour around the school by second and fifth year students. Tour groups visited the classrooms, labs and kitchens, and were welcomed at each house corridor by the House Mascots. House Captains explained the meaning of the house system of our school and the significance of each House. In the GPA area, representatives from





the multitude of committees and students lead groups in Our Lady's spoke about their groups to the parents and students. There were students at various points throughout the school speaking about the four pillars of OLS- academic excellence, wellbeing, house system and ethos.

In the Sports hall, the vast array of trophies won by various sports teams were on show and both students and coaches informed parents and students about the sporting teams in OLS. After the tours, the senior management team, Head Girl and Sports Captain, spoke about OLS and what it means to be an Our Lady's student. To finish up the successful day, the Parents Council treated everyone to refreshments and the TY Enterprise Class sold ice cream! It was fantastic to hold such a successful Open Day and we wish to thank everyone involved in the organisation!

-Róisín Evoy  
Incoming Head Girl

### **House Spirit Day**

Our inaugural House Spirit Day took place on Thursday the 2nd June. Students took part in numerous activities. To name but a few activities the students competed in wellie throwing, catch it if you can, brush n ball, tug of war, and build a bridge. House Spirit Day was an inclusive sporting event. While half of the students took part in the activities the other half went on a sponsored walk to raise money for our €1.6 million dome.

Well done to everyone who took part during the day and a big congratulations to M House who were the triumphant winners at the end of House Spirit Day.





## End of term Prizegiving

Congratulations to our student body who were awarded a variety of cups for reaching excellence in their subjects. The recipients were as follows:

Geography	Aoife Gillespe
English	Sinead McCloskey
History	Lousie Brennan
Art	Lorna Sheehan
Senior Irish	Julie Vaughan
Junior Irish	Kathryn King
Fíor Ghael	Caoilinn Dunne
Maths	Emily Aasen
Physics	Emily Aasan
Chemistry	Róisín O'Neill
Agricultural Science	Emer Keely
Biology	Rosin O'Neill
Economics	Katie Lett
Business	Sara Devoy
Accounting	Aislinn O'Shea
Home Economics	Tara McLaughlin
French Cup	Aobha Hogan
Spanish	Ava Power
German	Alice Carroll
Public Speaking	Elle Walsh Giguere







Congratulations to P2 who received the 'Malala Peace Cup'. This cup is presented to the class who excels in working together, accepting and respecting each other's differences and encouraging one another, which in turn promotes peace.

Róisín Evoy received the Angel of Peace Trophy. This trophy goes to the student who has a healing and caring disposition, making every effort to resolved conflict and always willing to share the load, another might be caring.



Katie Kennedy received the Eileen Malone Cup. Eileen Malone was a former Principal of Our Lady's Junior School. This cup is awarded to a Junior Cycle Student who has displayed qualities of public spirit over the last three years.



Rachel Davis received the Breda Bolger Friendship Trophy. This award has been given by the family of Breda Bolger who was a student in Our Lady's during the 1970s and who died whilst in 3<sup>rd</sup> Year. It is awarded to a Junior Cycle student whose warmth and friendliness has helped to promote the ethos of inclusion and belonging in OLS.



Aisling O'Loughran received the Ursula Murray Librarian Award. This award is presented in honour of Mrs Ursula Murray who was the school librarian. It is awarded to someone who has shared their love of reading for pleasure and made a positive contribution to the library and promoting its resources.

## **Transition Year Activities:**

Our TYs have had a busy term. With the last of their Development Days, hikes, work experience, competitions and day trips.

### **Carlingford**

TYs had an action packed few days in Carlingford. They immersed themselves wholeheartedly into the various activities available to them. On day one all students completed a 27km hike in the beautiful mountains surrounding Carlingford. A massive achievement for all!

Over the course of days two and three they completed high intensity laser combat in the forest, they spent the day wall climbing, spinning around in the Gyro, and a trip to the Skypark where they channeled their inner spider woman Zip Lining and climbing up the high ropes!

In the evenings they enjoyed the Carlingford challenge, axe throwing and an evening campfire. They toasted their s'mores and had a sing song all together. The outdoors proved tiring, and all have slept well! It was an amazing fun-filled trip for all.



### **Action Talks Speech Competition**

Well done to Elle Walsh Giguere who delivered a thought-provoking speech on the unequal distribution of domestic work in Ireland. She made it to the top six students in Ireland with her speech.



## Day in Dublin City



This term TY3s got the chance to explore many of the historic beautiful churches that Dublin city has to offer, while also engaging in a voyage of stillness, inward reflection and prayer. While TY4s was brought back in time and experienced a multitude of attractions our city has to offer ranging from The Little Museum's Treasure Hunt in St. Stephen's Green to the State Apartments at Dublin Castle. Also, a further Historical journey through EPIC, the Irish Emigration Museum.



## Funfair

On Monday the 28th of March the TY Enterprise class held a funfair for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students. There were games such as pin the tail on the House mascot, skittles and splat the rat. They also had an ice cream stall for a tasty treat. All money raised went to Women's Aid and The Irish Cancer Society.





## **Fighting Words**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March the TYs participated in The Fighting Words workshop this term. We were delighted to reintroduce this off-site workshop for the first time since 2020. Fighting Words is a creative writing workshop that encourages dialogue between classmates. It also proved to be worthwhile bonding exercise for the TYs.



## **ROCKMUN Report**

This year we had the opportunity to participate in the Blackrock Model United Nations Conference (ROCKMUN). In the Model UN students act as “Delegates” in the UN and are given the responsibility to debate, collaborate on, and solve issues such as world hunger, climate change, and terrorism all while improving our public speaking and communications skills.

Our team of five TY students formed the delegation of Mexico and we were given different committees to be a part of and had to research for these in advance. The committees we were assigned were human rights, health and youth, ecology and environment, economics and finance and the security council. In the weeks leading up to the conference we all put in a tremendous effort learning everything we could about our topics.

As this was our first conference, we weren't 100% sure what to expect but we realised how much fun we were in for when we began to chat with the other delegates. The opening ceremony was interesting where the competitive but friendly atmosphere that would last the whole conference was first seen, with many speeches including one from Minister Simon Coveney (and Frasier!) After this the committee sessions began.

We were each in our assigned rooms discussing issues that ranged from the global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the rights of indigenous people to the (at the time) pending invasion of Ukraine. We debated resolutions that were written by other committee members which involved speeches for and against, points of information and voting at the end to pass or fail the resolution. Dinner was next up and the chefs at Blackrock college



were on their A-game. Friday ended with more committee debates and then we left with lots of research to do overnight.

Saturday morning started with some wordle and music in the committee rooms while waiting for everyone to arrive. We debated our final resolutions and handed out a few joke awards before breaking for lunch.

After lunch we all gathered for 'General Assembly' which is normally where we debate the resolutions that had been passed in our committee rooms. Instead, we had a 'crisis' and we had to act as UN delegates would when there is an International Crisis and action needed to be taken fast.

The General Assembly proved to be the highlight of the conference with the USA delegation being 'arrested' and escorted out of the hall, a North Korean delegate deciding we should focus on more important matters such as 'government approved hairstyles and a Russian delegate quoting 'a great man Joseph Stalin'. Our Mexican delegation made some alliances, signed petitions, and voted on several emergency actions. Overall, we had an amazing weekend and would love to return next year.

-Aoife Ryan TY2 and Sophie Gorman TY1

### **Flag Raising Ceremony**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March we raised the tricolour in memory of the valour and determination of the 1916 rebels. Mary Anne Harte TY2 read an extract from the Proclamation while Sophie Gorman TY1 sang Amhrán na bhFiann. Flag Day gave the TY Reps the opportunity to reflect on the value of freedom and democracy in the 21st century.



## Self Defence Course

This term TY3 and 4 took part in the Close Encounters Self Defence Course. The focus of the course was on the ability to defend oneself without complicated techniques. The techniques taught to the TYs will allow them to defend themselves against a variety of conflict situations including punches, kicks, blunt weapons, knives, defence and escapes from the floor, grabbing attacks, bladed weapons, psychological self-defence, voice commands and personal protection theory.



## Dublin Zoo

TY1 and 2 headed to Dublin Zoo for the day. After a morning tour of the Zoo involving a Zoo quiz and lunch in the sunshine all students took part in the Zoo's Conservation Module. This outdoor module began with a history of zoos, looking at Dublin Zoo as a case study. It then covered the role of zoos in modern conservation, their importance for the breeding of endangered species and their role in reintroduction programmes. Focusing on species within Dublin Zoo, the group discussed the conservation challenges faced by these species and how the Zoo supports these species in the wild.



## Italy Tour

During the Easter break some of the TYs went to Italy to visit Lake Garda, Verona and Venice! On the first day we had a bright and early meeting at the airport before boarding the flight and arriving in Milan.

We then got the bus to Serimone and went on exciting Bertoldi speed boats on Lake Garda while listening to some music. After we dried off from the splashes, we got the bus to Verona and went on a walk to see Juliet's house but unfortunately Romeo was nowhere to be found. After that we went to an ancient Roman amphitheatre and finished the day with bowling. We finally checked into our hotel, and all slept very well after the 4am start and long day.



Day 2 began with breakfast in the hotel and then a bus and a water taxi into Venice. When we got to Venice, we went to the Murano Glass factory. Following on from that, we sampled some carbonara and pizza. Then we went on a walking tour of Venice where Ms Nolan was given a red rose from a secret admirer in Saint Mark's Square. We finished off our day in Venice with a beautiful, peaceful gondola ride around the canals of Venice. Again, everyone slept well (except for a few giggles) because of the long day.



The next morning, we went to Gardaland! We each got to go on the rides. They were thrilling and so much fun! Some were even brave enough to get on rollercoasters with the screaming teachers! We finished off our day with a spot of shopping in a mall and then we got the bus to a Medieval show and restaurant. Overall, it was a rollercoaster of a day!



## TY Night

This year the TYs were lucky enough to be able to have a TY night. This took place for the first time in two years, and we certainly made the most of it! It took place on the 25th of May. Throughout the GPA we had decorations, pictures, projects and written pieces based on subject rotations, extra-curricular activities and more. On the 24th of May we all got the opportunity to do a bake off. These baked goods were then sold alongside our coffee and tea made by our in-house baristas!

We had lots of different people talking and even doing sign language and Chinese! This was a great opportunity to really show our parents and guardians definitely have been very busy. At the end of the evening the TY musical class performed a dance to end on a high note. It was so nice to be able to display and recognise the achievements that we have all had this year. We are so grateful to have been able to organise it and I'd like to thank all the teachers involved in making not only this night so special but the whole year! I'd also like to extend a thank you to my class and year group because the night would not have been possible without the amazing projects, speeches, baristas and more.

-Rachel Vaughan TY4

TY evening was a great way to finish off a jammed packed year full of fun and memories. To start of the evening, we showcased all our talents throughout the rooms surrounding the GPA covering them in projects and pieces of work done throughout the year. The Junk Kouture designs as well as the busy baristas really caught the parent's attention as well as the musical! Throughout the evening we had students tell us all about their favourite subjects like Chinese and philosophy while also talking about the highlights of TY. It was very hard to pick only a few highlights as the whole year was amazing! Some of the highlights that were spoken about included Carlingford, Development Days and of course Venice. Each student was commended on the work they did throughout the year by receiving their certificates and for some their Gaisce Medals. A lot of work was put in by teachers and many students, so we were all delighted that the evening went so well. We are all leaving TY with many new skills, friends and memories.

-Ella McCabe TY3





# Sports

This term has been a very busy time for sport both inside and outside the school. We have made the finals and won in various different sports.

## **Hockey**

### Junior A Hockey Final

The Junior A team won the hockey final this term. They defeated Mount Sackville in 1 v 1s. A scintillating performance which was enhanced by the extremely enthusiastic supporters. Congratulations!







### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Hockey Team

Well done to our 1<sup>st</sup> Year Green Hockey Team who made it to the semi-final this term. They had a great season.

## **Swimming**

### Leinster Schools Interprovincial Swimming Gold

Congratulations to Laura Potts P1 who competed for Leinster schools in the Irish Interprovincial Swimming Championships and won two gold medals in the relays and an individual silver medal in the 100m freestyle.



## **Camogie**



### Junior B Camogie

Congratulations to the Junior Camogie team for winning the shield. They were victorious against Scoil Chaitriona 6:15 to 2:3! Well done to the team, coaches and the supporters.

### Minor B Champions

Congratulations to our Minor Camogie team who are now Minor B Champions. The girls put on a dominant display with a score line of 11-11 to 0-1 against Maynooth Community College. Well done to everyone involved, the future is bright for camogie in OLS!



## Boxing

Massive Congratulations to our 3rd year student Siena Fitzpatrick who scooped the Girl Four 53kg title after she beat her opponent on a split decision. Despite a somewhat tentative performance in the penultimate rounds, she managed to get the job done and set up a clash with her tall and rangy opponent.



## Rowing

Congratulations to Kate Smyth C2 and Maeve McLoughlin L1 for their impressive season in rowing. They started rowing together in September 2021 for Neptune Rowing Club and have already won at the Limerick regatta, Portadown regatta and Trinity regatta. Well done!



## Athletics

### Irish Life Health National Indoor Juvenile Championships

Congratulations to Molly Mullaly (TY2) who participated in the Irish Life Health National Indoor Juvenile Championships in Athlone during the term. She came fourth in the Triple Jump competition which is fantastic achievement.



### OLS Athletics Team

The OLS Athletics team competed in the West Leinster Schools Track and Field Finals this term. We had a very successful time in Santry. We struck gold early on the first day with Sarah Kiernan and Molly Mullally winning the Intermediate and Senior Girls' Triple Jump respectively. Eva McCormack qualified for the final after finishing 2nd and went on to finish a brilliant 6th place in the final. Our middle-distance athletes had super performances with Róisín Hanley Byrne winning the Minor Girls' 1,100m final, Elizabeth Farrelly finishing second in the Intermediate Girls' 1,500m final and Minor Girls' duo of Alecia Maughan and Niamh Ryan finishing 5th and 7th in the Minor Girls' 500m. The girls showed their teamwork skill when it came to the relay races with the minor girls progressing to the final and finishing a fantastic 4<sup>th</sup> place. While the u16 girls' team of Aoibh McNicholas, Caolinn O'Gorman, Sadhbh Coogan finished a brilliant 2nd. We ended the day with 3 gold and 2 silver medals.



Day 2 we were also successful. In the u16 200m Sadhbh Coogan and Caolinn O’Gorman eased through to the final with Sadhbh taking home the gold medal after an impressive victory in the final. Elizabeth Farrelly fought to the finish line to win the Intermediate girls 200m. Meanwhile our field eventers we’re making waves elsewhere with Emily Bradshaw winning the Senior Girls Javelin, Kate Bradshaw took second in the Intermediate Girls Javelin, and 1st year students Alecia Maughan, Róisín Hanley Byrne and Niamh Ryan had brilliant performances in the Minor High Jump and Long Jump. Later we were back on track with Róisín Hanley Byrne taking home the silver medal in the Minor 800m.

The afternoon proved to be just as successful for our jumpers with Sarah Kiernan and Maria Reid finishing 3rd and 5th in the Intermediate Long Jump. Alannah Giles had a very impressive performance to take gold in the Junior High Jump. We finished the day on a high with the Intermediate Relay Team storming to victory. The girls added 5 gold, 2 silver and a bronze medal to the total.

A huge congratulations to Alannah Giles in P2 who claimed the bronze medal after finishing a terrific third place in the Junior girls High Jump. Alannah will now represent OLS at the All Ireland Schools final in June.

## **Basketball**



Congratulations to the Second-year basketball team who won 41-33 against Santa Sabina in the final.



Well done to the senior basketball team who won the final 38-17 against Maryfield.





# Extracurricular Actives

## Library

The library has fully reopened this term. Our lunchtime clubs are back up and running with mindful Monday, chess club, and book club. We celebrated poetry month in April with our own poetry competition. Students submitted numerous terrific written poems. Our winner was Ava Montague in C1 with her amazing poem titled 'My Superhero'. We held a table quiz just before the holidays. It created a great buzz in the library with so many students signing up. Our last competition of the year was 'Reading in Unusual Places' with our overall winner Lucy Mulcahy C1 with her very impressive gravity defying front flip. The library will be running even more competitions next year.



## Coiste

Ms. Kinsella, along with a committee of fourth- and fifth-year students, worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure Gaeilge has been integrated into our school community. Between notice boards, murals and posters throughout the school, the presence of Coiste is certainly felt throughout the corridors of Our Lady's.

One of the main tasks we completed this year was 'Dúshlán Seasca Lá'. In the sixty days leading up to Seachtain na Gaeilge, we had a theme every week, adding a few simple phrases and vocabulary to everyone's stór focal, and encouraging everyone to use their cúpla focal. As well as countless art competitions, the annual Céilí Mór was a highlight for many students, with the whole school showing off their dance moves!

With the recent addition of Junior Gaeilge Reps, we were more in touch than ever with the Junior end of the school. Representatives from each class were responsible for encouraging Gaeilge in their form classes and encouraging participation in various challenges.

We were happy with all we have accomplished this year and hope we have encouraged students and teachers alike to use their Gaeilge! We hope next year's Coiste build on what we have achieved this year and continue to promote Gaeilge in OLS!



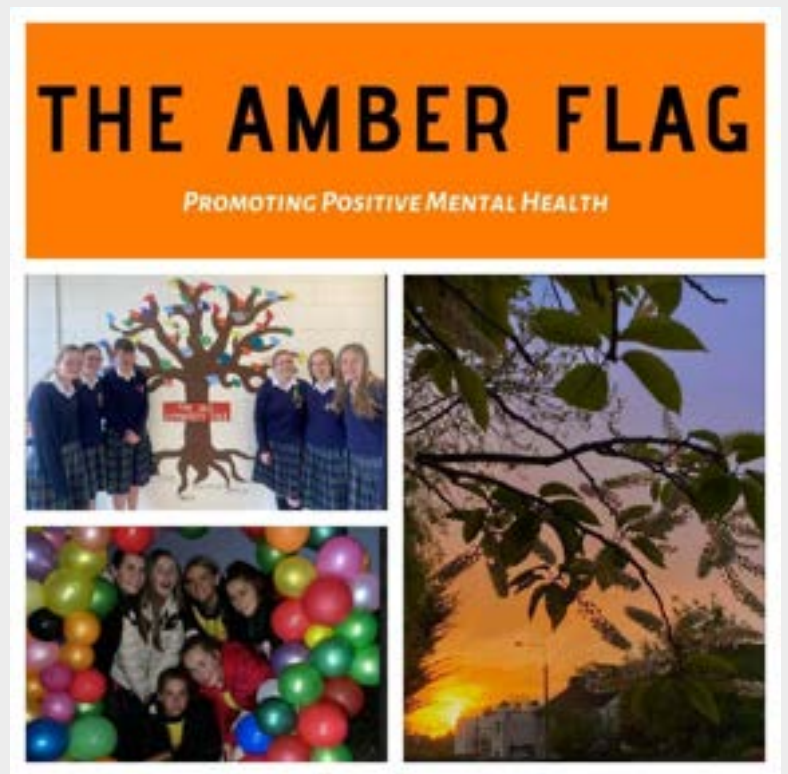
## The Amber Flag Committee

The Amber Flag Committee is an organisation in Our Lady's that promotes mental health and wellbeing in the school community. In its second year of running, Amber Flag is made up of representatives from 5th and 6th year. An exciting project Amber Flag undertook this year was the latest addition to Our Lady's walls, the Amber Flag Community Tree. The mural is a symbol for the community spirit here in OLS. The tree begins at its roots with all of the core values that drive our school community, including communication, respect and kindness. The tree branches out into year group branches, with a leaf representing each form class as well as leaves for staff. We were delighted with how this mural turned out and hope it will remain for many years to come!



One of our biggest projects this year was the Wellbeing Charter. This is a collection of the OLS community's guidelines for a safe, inclusive and happy school environment. We compiled the inputs from each year group, so that everyone's opinions were included. We feel a Wellbeing Charter will be an integral part of Our Lady's well being journey in years to come and are delighted with the prospect of its inclusion in next year's journal.

The project the Amber Flag undertook this year was celebrating Darkness into Light with our whole school community. The fifth and sixth years attended an official Darkness into Light event on May 7th in Tymon Park along with their families and some past pupils. Many photos were taken with everyone trying to capture the best sunrise picture. Each other year group got the opportunity to participate in a mini-Darkness into Light during one of their pastoral care classes to mark the occasion and funds were raised for Pieta House. This was a huge success and spread a vital message to all involved.



### **Lighthouse Programme**



Thirty of our Fifth Years worked with the Second-Year groups this year in the hope of being a light for them. Lighthouse is designed to be a source of navigation for the Second Years, from a group who have walked in their shoes. Overall, this year has been very successful. We met up with our groups regularly at break and during their Pastoral care classes. We began building connections with the Second Years through these visits and activities such as Mindfulness Day. One of our favourite activities was our own mini-Darkness into Light, in which we focused on the light and fun times in life. It was a very enjoyable morning finished off by some mindfulness colouring before the girls went back to their classes. We hope the girls enjoyed and benefited the activities we organised for them, as we all did. The connections built between fifth and second years have undoubtedly given excellent opportunities for our Fifth Years to take on leadership roles. We really hope that the girls found the year as beneficial and enjoyable as we did.



## Charity Committee

The Charity Committee have had an action filled summer term organising our final fundraisers for the year! Upon return from our Easter Break we began working on a fundraiser in aid of past pupil Ciara Barry (L House) who is currently suffering from a very aggressive blood cancer called Myelodysplastic Syndrome. She has the opportunity to receive treatment in a centre in Florida and is hoping to travel there on June 1st. A bake sale was held, and we saw the school community come together to help in any way possible. A total of €610 was raised in aid of a great cause.



The long weekend was spent getting our spring cleaning done! We did this in preparation for the annual clothing drive which was held in aid of Saint Vincent de Paul. Parents, students and staff dropped off unwanted items of clothing to the arch. Saint Vincent De Paul was delighted to see the kindness shown by the OLS community and couldn't believe the number of bags we had for them. The clothing will be used to help the vulnerable in our community. Thank you to everyone who donated to this.



We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you and well done to the whole school community and everybody who has helped, contributed, and donated to our Charity events which have taken place this year. The constant support and generosity of the school community has been incredible! We look forward to many more Charity events in the new school year!

-Charlotte Jones and Róisín Evoy C5

OLS Charity Committee

## Publication Club

This year we have had a great time creating our 21/22 publication. Our club started in September, and we met every lunchtime on Mondays. For the first few months, we set our theme and our intentions for this year's publication. We all decided on the theme of 'New Beginnings'. This was inspired by Brendan Kennelly's poem 'Begin'. We thought that this theme was particularly relative to everyone's lives this year. After experiencing two years of lockdowns and restrictions, we wanted to seize the opportunity of a new school year and spread hope and excitement at the new beginning we were all about to embark on as life slowly but surely started to return. We have so much to celebrate this year in OLS, from a new group of first year students coming to the school and settling in, to new friends being made, new understandings about ourselves and others and yet another class of sixth year students graduating as they come to the end of their time at Our Lady's. So much is always happening in our school environment, and we really hope that our publication this year has captured the hope and possibility that lies within new beginnings.



Ms Morrissey with Hannah Galvin (middle) and Róisín Duggan (left).

You can find a copy of our publication in the school library, or you can look at the online version through the school app. We have had so much fun working and learning together to make this publication for you. We really hope you enjoy it.

**-OLS Publication Team 21/22.**





## Student Council Update

This term has been a busy one for the Our Lady's Student Council as we started 2022 wanting to improve the school community more than ever! We liaised with the Irish Second Level Students Union, Mr Rhatigan and other important figures to make sure the OLS students' voices were heard.

First off, the council handed out application forms for the International Student Identity Cards, which are United Nations student cards that come with a number of benefits, including discounts. This saw huge popularity and students from across every year group applied. The card photos were taken in April and we're working towards the next step of dispatching the cards.

Another task the student council banded together for was the redecorating of the noticeboard (located in P House corridor). We hoped to give it a new lease of life by adding suggestion box signs, ISIC infographics, accomplishment posters and fun lettering. Be sure to take a look!

We also gathered ideas for fundraisers throughout the term and invested time in planning events for the students, such as the April "Movie Afternoon" and the May "Karaoke Lunch". We also brainstormed ideas for Cyber Week and came up with other ways to reward the students for supporting the council.

Finally, we worked on getting the water taps back up and running throughout the school, with specific guidelines and regulations being provided shortly.

Overall, it has been a jam-packed term and we hope the OLS community has benefited from the actions the 2021/22 student council took to help make day-to-day life in school more enjoyable and representative of the students.



## Active School Flag

It has been an action-packed year for everyone in Active School Flag. Our class worked very hard all year to make the school a more active school. We used our survey results to organise and plan our whole school events, which we did three of. Here are some of the things the ASF class got up to this year.

Mentioned in our previous newsletter report, we split ourselves up into teams at the start of the year. This includes media and reporting, design, walkway, liaison, and research. The teams worked well for our class because it meant that the work we needed to do could be divided out and maximise our productivity.

Our first whole school event was the dodgeball tournament last November. This was a positive experience for everyone in our school and got lots of people involved. We held dodgeball games in PE and lunch for every year group and held finals at lunch times against the teachers. This was a very competitive event, with the teachers coming out on top with a 4-2 win.

After Christmas two representatives of the class had a meeting with Ms. Gorby to discuss our action plan and our ideas for the rest of the year. These included a walkway challenge, rounders tournament, steps challenge and many more. We received feedback and worked to make our ideas happen.

Our second event was the walkway challenge. This happened in March during Wellbeing Week. We worked to get people to use our active walkway during the day. We got lots of people out on the walkway during classes and at break and lunch, and the introduction of a competition got everyone involved and excited!

We decided to do a rounders tournament for our final whole-school event, as rounders is always popular in OLS. We thought it would be best for this event to run in May before the exams. This event was run differently to the dodgeball as it was at lunch and students could enter a team of their choice. Lots of people got involved. Firstly, we had the group stages where we found a winner from each year to play in the finals against the teachers. Once the winners were found the finals began. Fortunately, the students pulled off the win with a score of 6-0.





## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As we welcome summertime, we can rest assured that here in Our Lady's, we have embraced the school year with hope and positivity, and we have demonstrated enormous strength of spirit despite the challenges posed to us by the pandemic. We have, for the first time in 2 years or more, been able to celebrate our liturgies in person, gathering together as a school community. How special that has been! We have so much to look forward to and we have achieved so much, with God with us every step of the way, guiding and nurturing us and keeping us focused on what's important.

We began March with our Ash Wednesday ceremony, which was attended by the whole school community. Ashes were offered to students and staff to mark the beginning of Lent this year. TY students were brought on a tour of Dublin churches for their development day. There was ample opportunity for prayer and reflection and also some Dublin church history thrown in! We began discussing possible themes for our 6th Year Graduation in May. We celebrated St Patrick's day with a prayer and display organised by P House captain Lorna Burke. We continued our meditation schedule in our Oratory with both TYs and 3rd year classes. We prepared for Easter by putting together a ceremony with our P5s who demonstrated great faith

through prayer and song. We also celebrated Le Cheile day. The theme for this year was Peace, peace in our hearts, homes and the world. Each student offered a written prayer which was then put together to form a peace chain.

We put together a May altar in honour of Our Lady, patron saint of our school. We had our 1st and 3rd Year retreats led by Callum Douglas of Faber Companies. These were a wonderful opportunity for class bonding, prayer and reflection. We enjoyed our 6th Year Graduation mass, which was held on the 19th May. The first in person graduation since 2019.

Lord bless and protect all of our students,  
their families, our staff and their families  
and the wider school community.

We pray for our exam students, both 3rd and 6th years.

We want to pray for our 6th year graduating students.

May God guide them in the path that is meant for them.

Keep us all safe and well this summer.

We pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Justine Redmond

Chaplain





## Le Chéile Day

Before the Easter break the whole school, community watched the meaningful Lenten Ceremony put together by P5 and the Chaplain. We also celebrated Le Chéile Day at the end of our ceremony by creating chains of peace and unity upon which every student in the school wrote an intention for peace. The Le Chéile Council and P5 then displayed the peace chains in Reception for the whole school community to see and reflect upon.



