



**OUR
LADY'S
SCHOOL**
TERENURE



5th May 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

We look forward to your daughters moving into the Senior section of the school next September as they embark on Transition Year. Transition Year brings a myriad of opportunities to our students and this is reflected in the broad curriculum offered in OLS in TY.

The value of TY lies in its divergence from State exams and rote learning, its emphasis on project work, collaboration, entrepreneurship and subject sampling. One of the greatest benefits is that it allows the students to develop away from the pressure of State Exams.

The ethos of Our Lady's is about holistically developing our students so they reach their potential and the pursuit of excellence in all they do. Transition Year offers the girls an excellent opportunity to explore new areas, and to develop mentally, spiritually and physically. It broadens their horizons and gives them a greater taste of the world outside the classroom.

Your daughter should have by now filled in her subject options for TY and you will see the many new subjects on offer from Film Making to Junk Kouture to Chinese and Enterprise. Alongside the broad TY curriculum offered in OLS there is also a clear focus on academic progress and preparing students for Senior Cycle programmes.

All students will study the core subjects (English, Irish, Maths, Modern Foreign Languages, PE, Religion, Careers, SPHE) and have a taster in all subjects offered at senior cycle (Business, Accounting, Economics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science, History, Geography, Music, Home Economics, Physical Education) to ensure an informed Leaving Certificate subject choice. House exams twice a year will assist students understand where they are in their academic subjects and where they need to improve.

We hope that Covid restrictions will gradually be lifted and for the numerous trips and educational days out that are synonymous with TY to recommence in the next academic year, including the trip to Carlingford.

As members of the senior section of the school your daughter will be embarking on many opportunities to develop her skills as a leader in OLS. We encourage all our students to avail of these opportunities in any small way that they can so that they give back to our community. Roles on the student council, class captains, the TY Rep team, LIFT ambassadors and various Gaisce opportunities all provide students with ways of leading in positive ways throughout the year.

Next year all base classes will be mixed together for all TY classes apart from pastoral care. This means that your daughter will be in a new core class for every subject except when she meets her House class once a week at pastoral care. This increased social mixing creates new class dynamics and allows your daughter to develop many new friendships as she gains

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confidence and a greater awareness about who she is. This opportunity to branch out and embrace a broader Senior Cycle network is a key strength of the TY programme that, time and time again, is highlighted by students as one of the most positive aspects of TY.

Work experience is a key component of TY and provides students with glimpses into the real world of work. Your daughter should start thinking about which field of work she would like to sample and now is an ideal time to plan and source these placements with the dates that have been identified for next year's placement weeks.

I wish you and your daughter the best during Transition Year and know that you will support us to encourage your daughter to get involved in the many rich opportunities presented to your daughter throughout the year.

Yours sincerely

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