



Our Lady's School



6TH YEARS

A Message from our Head Girls and Sports Captain (Page 3)



OUR LADY'S SCHOOL

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

2022



THIS TERM'S TOP STORIES

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



Club Fun

Look at what the many different clubs have been up to this term (Page 19)





PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

16th December 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been another enjoyable and busy term in Our Lady's. We are delighted to welcome lots of parent groups back into the school for many different meetings and events. It is also such a pleasure to see the large number of students involved in so many different extracurricular activities at break time and lunch time. The GPA has hosted House lunch meetups, board game competitions and maths club to name but a few of the numerous activities that take place at lunchtime in every part of the school grounds.

Congratulations to all the TY students who received their Junior Cycle results. It was a long wait but the very strong results were well worth it. Our TYs are to be commended on their adaptability and resilience throughout their Junior Cycle.

The arrival of builders to start the groundworks for our long awaited Sports Dome project brought great excitement to the school. At last this long cherished project was finally starting. Work will continue throughout the new year and the optimistic completion date is mid May 2023. Thank you to so many parents who have given substantial donations to the project and we will continue to fundraise for this very worthy school based project. It will be such a positive addition to student and staff wellbeing offering the very best in sporting facilities to all.

Following House exams, we have identified those who need additional help to reach their full potential and we have a team of staff involved in interventions to assist academic performance. Third and Sixth

Years received a session with relevant subject specific teachers on the best way to study for each subject as a focus for study for upcoming Third and Sixth Year mock examinations.

The Nun's Feast Day was a highlight of last term and L5 created a fitting ceremony to remind us of the values of the RCE and their heritage. We also celebrated the contribution of Kevin O' Brien in his role of outgoing Chair of the BOM for the past twelve years whilst welcoming our new Chair Mary White to the school.

We have already had a wonderful response to the November Knitathon for hats and scarves for the Peter McVerry Trust and well done to those who picked up knitting for the first time.

Christmas is a magical time in OLS and our year always ends with the Carol Ceremony in the sports hall and House celebrations. There are currently five House Christmas trees in the GPA filled to the brim with toys and food packages to be delivered to numerous charities following our Gifts to the Crib day

I wish every family in our community a peaceful and restful Christmas

Yours sincerely,

Marguerite Gorby



STUDENT UPDATES



A Message from your Head Girls and Sports Captain...

Council Corner

Since returning to school after the Halloween break, we have had many plans, events and occasions to put in place. We jumped straight into organising our House events following the success of our House meeting in October. The Christmas period in Our Lady's always evokes a feeling of warmth for every member of the school community. We can't believe that this year is our last Christmas here in OLS as we decorate House Christmas trees and hang decorations all around the classrooms. The Nun's feast day begins our charity drive and this year we had our first whole school feast day in three years. Having the whole school gathered together to represent our foundations and true values really shows all students and staff how important they are and how everyone plays a role in our school. The charity drive has been extremely successful this year with hundreds of raffle tickets being sold, plenty of scarves being knitted in the November Knitathon as well as a promising number of donations to our annual 'Gifts to the Crib' drive. We all look forward to the goal mile on the 26th of December raising vital funds for 'Goal' helping people less fortunate than ourselves. We believe that the true meaning of Christmas is giving which is what Our Lady's is all about at Christmas time which truly shows how 'We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give'

In regards to House, we have had an abundance of events throughout the last term. Inter House sport began our House festivities with everyone getting competitive through relays. Our new initiative of House lunches had huge success across B, C, L, M and P where everyone got to meet with their Houses, eat their lunch and play games together. We hope to see a continuation of regular House lunches in the new year.

Another new addition is the regular Sixth Year councillor check-ins on a Monday at break. This will ensure that each form class is briefed of all upcoming events and competitions in the coming weeks as well as build a further connection between each of the year groups and their councillor.

In the weeks approaching Christmas the tension could be felt as competition was raised amongst the Houses ahead of the first ever OLS lip sync battle. The GPA was filled with music as everyone mimed to their heart's content. It was an event not to be missed and something that will hopefully form part of the yearly calendar.

Coinciding with the annual Christmas Carol Service was the House Ceremony. In the run up to this event, council members worked tirelessly on their personalised House Banners with their House quote. These were proudly displayed in the venues and will continue to be shown in the GPA for the rest of the year. On the last day of term, before the Carol Ceremony, students gathered with their Houses to celebrate their individual House. Each House Captain gave a background of the history of the House and Patron Saint, followed by words from House Mentors and 6th year Form Teachers. This was an amazing event enjoyed by all and it definitely finished the term off on a high note!

- Róisín Evoy C6 & Caoilin Dunne B6

Sports News

Hello! Here is a little update of what's gone on this term in sports.

With the end of our table tennis tournament the InterHouse relays began. Two students from each class ranging from First to Sixth Year and a house teacher represented their house in the races. It was great to see classes out supporting their friends and house with face paint and the house t-shirts. From a scope of relays from basketball dribble, egg and spoon race the C house came through with the win. A big congratulations to everyone involved! The points have been added to our InterHouse scoreboard which will lead to our sports trophy at the end of the year. Thank you to the council for helping with this, I very much appreciate it as a fine example of teamwork.

The first ever Physical Activity project (PAP) has been completed in our school. This is worth 20% of the Leaving Cert PE results, so a huge well done girls!

The sports talent in Our Lady's is extraordinary and recognition in sport is vital. I am delighted to see so many pupils involved in sports across all years. A huge shout out to Joy Ralph for receiving her first cap for representing Ireland in soccer and she continues to play for her club (DLR waves) when the season restarts. Myself and all of Our Lady's is supporting you with your huge achievement. A humongous well done Joy!!

It's not too late to join our variety of teams or participate in our extra-curricular activities. I highly encourage everyone to get involved and to join inside or outside of school clubs, as new seasons in sport generally start at the end of January. If you wish for more information do not be hesitant to approach me in the corridor, I will be more than happy to help and guide you. 'You miss 100 of the shots you don't take' so don't be afraid to take a step out of your comfort zone and go for it. Try a new sport and see if you like it.

The importance of sport to me has displayed itself throughout my years of playing, from confidence booster to its importance in contribution to teenagers and young adults physical, personal, social and emotional development. Each year, having something to get away from studies is hugely vital for me, helping with mental and physical health, but you get one free kind of deal. Sport has taught me many skills throughout my years such, taking responsibility in leadership as captain or as a team player and the importance of teamwork. I have also learned listening skills and the skill to intake knowledge and implement it in direct action. These skills can be hard to create outside of sports but are important as you implement them in other areas of life even for many years after you leave Our Lady's. Skills you will use in life no matter which career path you take.

We look forward to the exhilarating news of our new sports dome beginning in the works. **HOW EXCITING!**

I am thrilled for everyone who has involved themselves in any type of activity in the past few weeks, I am very proud, keep it up! After Christmas we anticipate many more InterHouse spots to come, **EVEN MORE EXCITEMENT!**

Last but not least, I am wishing you and your family a safe and a very Happy, Holy and Healthy Christmas.

Your Sports Captain

- Maria McMahon B6



First Year Reflections

Hello my name is Elsie, I am in P1 and I have just completed my second term here in OLS! I have really enjoyed my time here so far because there's always so many fun activities and clubs to take part in. The clubs and sports I have decided to join are the Junior Book Club, Charity Club, Science Club and Hockey.

This term has had a lot of events, all of which I've enjoyed. We had our Nuns Feast Day in November, celebrating our wonderful Sisters, with the theme "Sisters are like stars, you don't always see them, but you know they're always there". This was a great whole school event with wonderful singing from our choir. In December, Ms. Donlon and our Form Tutors brought us for a wonderful day out to Dundrum, on a cinema trip. We went to see Matilda the musical, and it was an amazing movie and an enjoyable day out.

I have really enjoyed my first few months in OLS, and have made some really amazing new friends! I would like to thank all the staff for being so kind and welcoming.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

- Elsie O' Connor P1

First Year so far has been a whirlwind of new experiences. New friends, new subjects and new activities. Since the first day, the staff at OLS have been so kind, helpful and welcoming. There hasn't been any problem they could not or would not help with.

There have been so many trips and fun activities around the school for us to participate in, such as the Matilda trip, house lunches, school assemblies and lots of different visitors who came in to give talks.

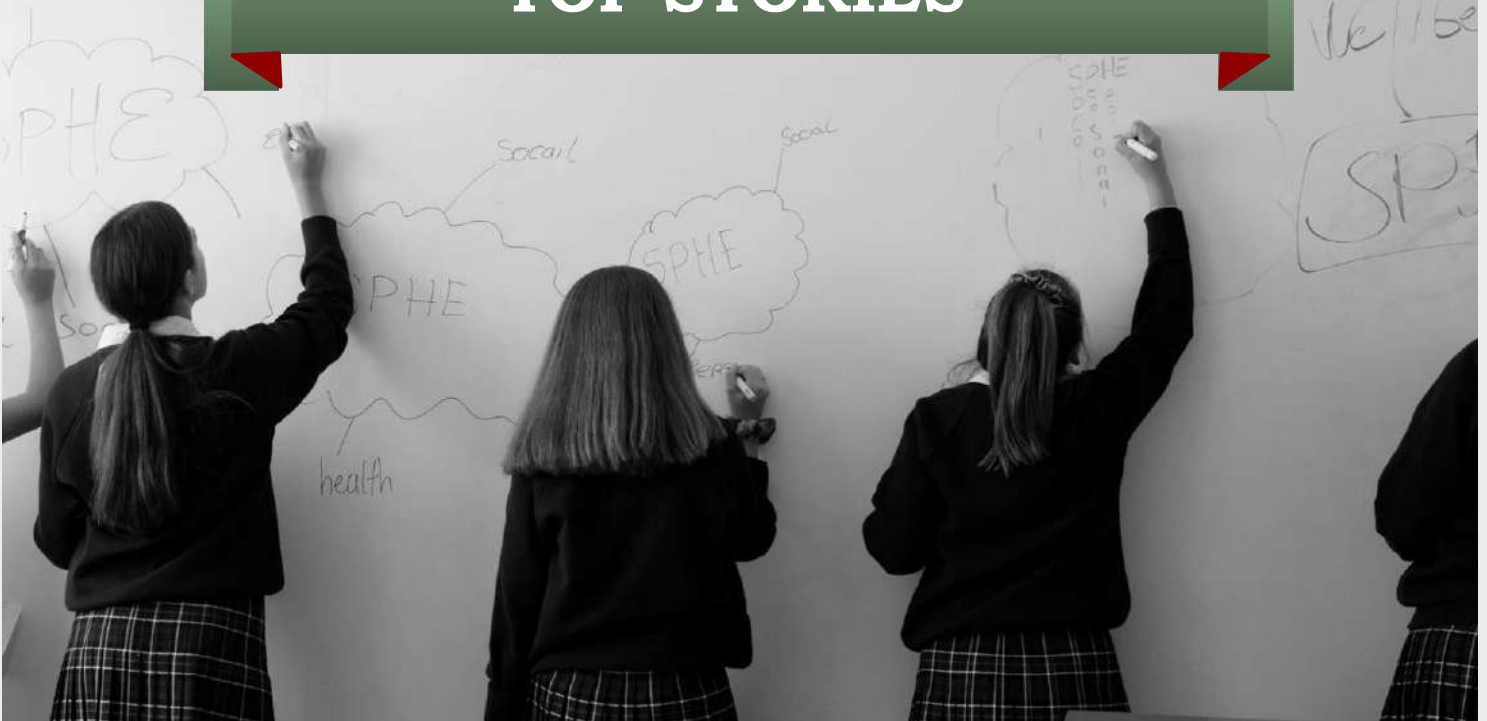
We have participated in many school traditions as well, such as the Nun's Feast Day, Jersey Day and the Christmas Raffle. There have been lots of great times this term such as joining new clubs, cooking in Home Ec and hockey matches. Some of my favourite extracurricular activities include hockey, cooking club, badminton and book club. Hockey is definitely one of the most loved activities, with over eighty students signing up. There are a variety of teams, with many matches played and won! Cooking club is also a firm favourite as we cook wonderful treats every week.

I cannot wait to come back in January with a fresh mindset, ready for the new year to come.

- Anna Butterly C1



THIS TERM'S TOP STORIES



Junior Certificate Results

Congratulations to all our students who got their Junior Certificate results in November. You should all be very proud of yourselves...we certainly are! The results are testament to the girls' determination, resilience and the hard work of students and staff alike.

A big well done to Eliana, Kathryn, Rachel, Maria, Jane and Ciara on the exceptional number of distinctions they achieved.



Nun's Feast Day

We celebrated our annual Nun's Feast Day on the 18th of November. This celebration is to honour the Religious of Christian Education who started Our Lady's School in 1953. We are so proud of our Sisters and the school they have built. Many thanks to the Religion Team and the Music Department for putting together a beautiful ceremony.



Board of Management

We would like to extended thanks to Kevin O' Brien for his contribution to the school as chair of the Board of Management for the past twelve years. Mr O' Brien was presented with gifts from the school as a thank you. Li Zhou created a beautiful drawing of the school and our caretaker Vincent made a beautiful wooden clock.



Stand Up Awareness Week and Anti Bullying Day

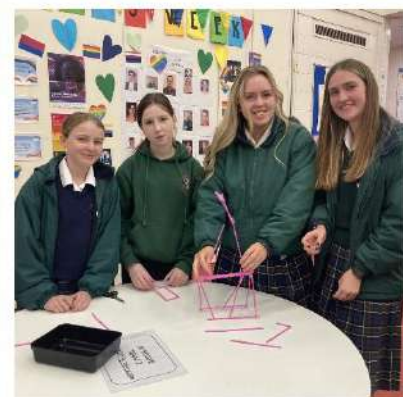


We held Stand Up Awareness Week this term. This is our LGBT+ support week and it was our fourth year celebrating it. Our TY Journalism class created a colourful display of LGBT+ flags, quotes, images and a wall of fame which includes numerous celebrities who are part of the LGBT+ community. We celebrated #ComeIn day on the Thursday where students and staff were invited to decorate their hair with the colours of the pride flag to show their support. Our #ComeIn board was filled up with messages of support and lockers were decorated with colourful hearts.

We also participated in Anti-bullying Day was on Monday. Staff and students wore odd socks to celebrate everyone's uniqueness. Well done to everyone who participated!

Science Week

Science Week was a terrific hit during the term. The Science Department created a terrific display and they held an Inter-House Science Challenge. Students had to creatively construct a structure out of straws which could hold up a marble. Well done to B House for winning first place! Our Lab Leaders Programme took place during Science week with 6th class students from St Pius X GNS visiting the OLS Labs. Each Pius student was paired with a TY Lab Leader and introduced to some chemistry, biology and physics experiments. Well done to all TY Lab Leaders who were outstanding and a big thanks to Ms Flood, Ms Fitzpatrick and Ms Stuart for leading the way and opening up their labs for this fabulous programme.



Feast Ireland



The Third Year students had a visit from FEAST Ireland. They taught them all about past, present and future food production. The students got an insight into the global food industry and all of its hidden secrets, as well as everything that happens before the food we eat arrives on our plate. After learning about food sustainability and waste, students were invited to try some interesting sustainable foods. Students tasted sourdough bread, granola made with repurposed grains and some very brave students tried some oysters!

Matilda Cinema Trip

The First Year students were all taken on a cinema trip to see the new film Matilda the Musical to celebrate their classmate Alisha who plays Matilda. The students also presented Alisha with flowers, gifts and a signed frame from everyone in the year. We are all very proud of her work!

First Year student Matilda Dunne gives her review of the film below;

The new movie musical adaptation of Road Dahl's 'Matilda' is anything but revolting! It's the movie that everyone seems to be talking about and has critics calling it nothing short of a 'miracle'. Director, Matthew Warchus, has beautifully retold the beloved West End musical, telling the story of a young girl named Matilda Wormwood who was miraculously born with a strong willed mind and extraordinary powers. Unfortunately, this powerful little girl was raised by a family that treats her badly and let her unique talents go unappreciated. When Matilda dares to stand up against the head teacher of her school, things begin to change for the better leading to a movie that will have audiences laughing, crying and singing along throughout.



I had the pleasure of seeing the movie shortly after its release with my school and was blown away by Alisha Weir's performance as the bright and brilliant Matilda. Her talents as an actor and performer seem to know no bounds and she dazzled the audience with her beautiful voice and heartfelt acting that left the room without a dry eye. Her astounding performance was easily my favourite and her rendition of 'Naughty' was a personal highlight of the movie for me. The movie also contained a number of memorable performances, particularly Emma Thomason's portrayal of the wicked Ms Trunchbull that left everyone satisfied when she was overpowered by the revolting children in the film's conclusion. One of my favourite aspects of Ms Trunchbull, was the new attention on her backstory which gave her character a newfound sense of humanity instead of being a one dimensional evil antagonist.

Even though this live action musical contained many memorable moments such as when Matilda stands up to Ms. Trunchbull for the first time by defending one of her peers by coming up with a credible lie to protect him. I personally feel as though the film didn't spend a lot of time focusing on the discovery of Matilda's powers, such as her telekinesis. I believe if they spent more time on the adaptation of Matilda's powers, it would have given viewers a stronger connection to her powers making her a more likeable character for people to relate to.

In conclusion, I would highly recommend this family-friendly movie to people of all ages who are looking to be a little bit more 'naughty'. I would give this movie five stars as I enjoyed all aspects of it from its stunning setting, perfect cast, to its more emotional scenes that have left audiences touched and wanting more of the fantastic, enthusiastic, song-tastic experience that is 'Matilda the Musical.

- Matilda Dunne M1

Amazon Web GetIT

During the term Laura from Amazon Web Services (AWS) came to the school to meet with our First Year students to let them know about the AWS Get It programme. AWS GetIT is a program and competition designed to inspire 12-14 year old students, especially girls, to consider a future in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). The program helps schools and educators bring tech role models to their classrooms and gives them access to curriculum designed to help students build foundational skills, learn about cloud tech, and design app ideas to solve problems in their communities.

First Year students Chloe, Alannah and Gwen in M1 give their own review of the talk below:

On Thursday the first of December, a lovely girl called Laura who works at Amazon came in to us and told us very interesting things about her job/life. Laura also spoke broadly about all women in tech, for example herself! She asked questions about our knowledge on tech and we learned a lot about different jobs in tech.



We were then given a task in groups to think about different problems we could possibly solve with an app. We got into groups and came up with an app to help homelessness, screen time and even dog poo!

Laura told us about AWS Get IT, which is a program that Amazon runs for teens in Ireland. This program is to encourage teenagers to get into tech and design. The idea of the program is to come up with a problem in your local area, and come up with an app to solve the problem as best as you can. You can do this in many formats, such as, google docs, Google slides, etc. At the end of the program, which will be in April 2023, all of the groups of students will enter their app idea into a competition, which will have students from over forty-five schools.

It was a really great talk and everyone in first year really enjoyed it as it was fun and interesting but also a help to push our minds to our best ability. Many of us are planning to sign up and it's all very exciting!

- Chloe, Alannah and Gwen. M1

House Activities

OLS House has started off very strong this year with all the year groups taking part in the various exciting House activities. HOUSE from HOME kicked off the school year when each mascot spent a week in the care of a form class. Their time away from OLS was closely documented and House points were awarded to the mascot that had the most fun each week.



For Maths Week the Sixth Year council hosted our InterHouse Maths Countdown competition, which proved a real brain teaser for both our older and younger students! The enthusiasm and turnout for the countdown was fantastic and it was great to see all of the year groups interacting.

InterHouse Sports has been ongoing with the Council hosting the weekly table tennis competition culminating in the doubles playoff between House Captains and House Mentors. The InterHouse sport relays were also completed in very good spirit this term.



House Lunches were hosted in December and saw all the years playing festive games in the spirit of House and Christmas!

The Council are busy preparing their House banners for their celebrations. This is a time to celebrate House spirit and reflect on what we have done so far. We look forward to spreading more House cheer in the new year.

RCE Coffee Morning

During the term The Sister held a coffee morning at their home. Different classes were invited over including all of the First Years who also baked treats to be sold. At the coffee morning, they held a bake sale and a raffle. The raffle was great because no matter what ticket everyone got a prize. The Sisters were delighted to have the company and all the money raised is going to The Oasis Centre which supports a counselling and therapy in Dublin City Centre.

- Emma Palmer C1



Christmas at OLS

Christmas time in OLS is always an important time of year, where we reflect on the year that has been and look forward to what is to come. It is a time of giving and that can be seen through all the great fundraising we do here in OLS such as the Gifts to the Crib, the November Knithathon and the twelve hampers of Christmas Raffle, none of which would be possible without your endless support. The festive spirit can be seen through our wonderful students who carry with them the values of our school every day. They have decorated the school and made the atmosphere so festive and joyful. We finished our year with a beautiful carol ceremony with beautiful singing from our choir (and surprise performance by staff). We hope all our students and their families have a great festive period filled with love, friendship and family.



Transition Year Activities:

What a term our TY's have had! Our TYs have had a busy term between Development Days, work experience and workshops.

Work Experience

Our TY students completed their first week of work experience during this term. Students got to experience and learn more about their chosen career. Below TY student Aoife describes her own work experience.

I also really enjoyed my first block of work experience working in a library. I wasn't really sure what to expect but it definitely exceeded my expectations. It was very compelling. There is a lot more behind the running's of a library than I thought. I was learning about how they use social media, the history of the different branches and the history behind Dún Laoghaire. I learned history

surrounding what they would have worn during the time of the civil war. I even got to feel and hold a child's uniform from the time period. We learnt about where they store the books, skills needed and requirements in the Leaving Certificate to become a Librarian, how the book sorter operates and how the national system works. I learned about the IT side of the library, the arts and lots more.



- Aoife O' Shea TY1

Irish Defence Force Talk

During the term TY's were given a talk by a Lieutenant and Sergeant from the Irish Defence Forces. They learned how the Defence Forces is structured with the various branches of the army and how to work your way up the ranks. They also learned what they do such as peacekeeping, how they travel to various countries all around the world and how to join along with the attributes that the army looks for in their recruits and cadets. While this career may not be for everybody the TY's were enlightened about just how rewarding it can be. They learned how the Defence Forces is structured, what they do such as peacekeeping, how they travel to various countries all around the world and how to join.





Physics Talk

Ten TY students interested in science attended a valuable Physics webinar given by UCD. The focus was on how Physics is used in the real world. They participated in interactive webinars, thought provoking lectures and experiments which allowed these Physics passionate students to experience it in a different light. They heard about the work of researchers in this field and gained a beneficial insight into what it would be like to study Physics at a university level.



Run in the Dark

Linked with the Active School Flag class sixty TY students and their teachers completed the route set out for Run in the Dark. They raised €600 for Mark Pollock's mission to cure paralysis. TY's and the teachers got involved with face paint, lights, and colourful clothes. Enthusiasm was shown by all, they really did light up the dark! Some people ran while others walked but everybody completed their 5k and had fun for a great cause.

Microsoft Dreamspace

TY students visited Microsoft Dreamspace during the term. They were given valuable insights into coding, AI (Artificial Intelligence) and mixed reality. From using their eyes to send a word to their team, to programming spheres (sphere shaped little robots) to navigate a perfect square.



Fighting Words Workshop

Ms McAleer and Ms Bradley's TY Students attend a Fighting Words workshop during the term. The students created colourful scripts based around the theme of love at the writing workshop. They acted out their entertaining scripts in group performances to much applause and praise from the writing mentors.

Craft Fair Enterprise

The Enterprise class held their Christmas craft fair. They were selling various items such as Christmas cookies, lip glosses, necklaces, hot chocolate jars, and homemade candles. The student also attended a craft fair in the RDS during the term for inspiration on ideas of what to sell. They also learnt all about prices and managing a small business!





This term has been a very busy time for sport both inside and outside the school.

Football

Congratulations to Joy Ralph who received her FAI cap from James Scott Irelands under 17s manager.



Hockey

First half of the hockey season has been a bright one for our students at OLS. We have many teams in each year group training week in and week out. Our First Year teams have started their 8-aside leagues most recently against St Raphaela's, Mount Sackville and High School, coming out on top in a lot of these games. Our Second Years also started their league campaign with wins in their first few games. Our Third years also have a mix of wins and losses this first half, many more matches in January to show their improvement from training which we are excited to see.

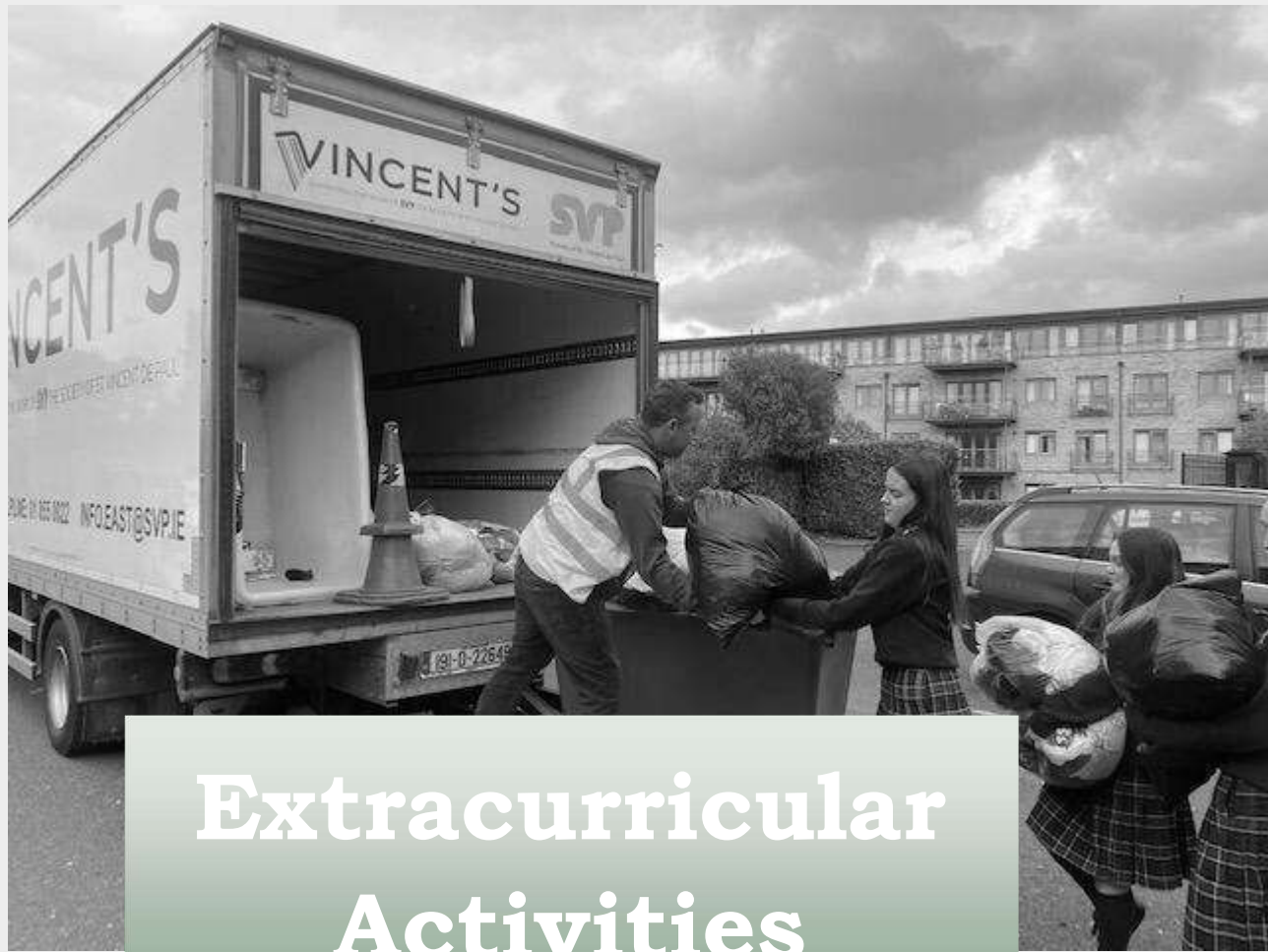
Our Senior teams have been training well this season with our A team winning their first cup game against Sion Hill to get to the next stage but unfortunately, they came up against the winner of that game Newbridge. They played exceptionally well and shown how good they can be. Our Senior B and C team have also been training well and we are excited to see how their last few games turn out.

Overall the future of hockey in this school is a promising one.



Badminton

The Badminton teams have had a successful term so far. The B team won against Mount Carmel Secondary School by five games to one. The A team also won five games to one against Loreto Foxrock at the start of December. Well done everyone keep up the good work!



Extracurricular Activities

The Amber Flag Committee

The Amber Flag Committee have been working hard to spread positive mental health and wellbeing throughout the school. Between the Wakeup Shakeup and constant spread of positive mental health quotes the Amber Flag girls are always busy running around trying to put a smile on students faces. With our winter wonderland and elf inspectors spreading some festive fun, we are constantly trying to remind students how important it is to be kind to one another and too yourself and how a little act of kindness can brighten someone's day.

- Ella Mc Cabe L5



Charity Club

The OLS charity club has been very busy this term. We have organised The November Knitathon and our recent event Gifts to the Crib.



The November Knitathon

The November knitathon is an annual event here in OLS for many years. Students and staff (and parents if they like!) are asked to grab their needles and wool and try their hand at knitting hats and scarves for the homeless in aid of the Peter McVerry Trust. This is a current event extending into January so it's not too late to get involved! May I also mention this is also a House competition, with House points going for the most knitting (in length). We hope to see lots of people join in on this OLS tradition.

Gifts to the Crib

To end the term, we had our annual Gifts to the Crib. Each year group was asked to buy a gift and place it under their House tree during the Gifts to the Crib ceremony. The bags are bursting at the seams with all the lovely donations! The charities the gifts are being distributed to this year are; Dogs Trust, SVP, Saoirse Women's Refuge, Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin and Temple Street Foundation! Thanks to everyone's generosity we made many people around Dublin's Christmas so much brighter!

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your amazing support. You have supported the homeless, people living in crisis, children in hospitals, rescue dogs to list a few. The OLS charity club would not work without you! Please know every contribution is greatly appreciated.



Thank you and Merry Christmas!

- The OLS Charity Club

Active School Flag

This term we have focused on trying to get the whole school more active and inform the school on how they can get active while still having fun. Our motto is “Your Heart Needs To Beat So Get Active On Your Feet!”

We conducted our survey and it was extremely successful as we got a huge response from both students and staff in the school. We broke up into different committees E portfolio, research, design, reporting, media, junior and senior liaison and walkway committees. These different committees help us to break down what we need to do and complete our jobs faster.

We hosted our first whole school event dodgeball which was really successful. The final score was three wins for the staff and three wins for the students. The student winners were M2, M3 and L5. Everyone got involved and had lots of fun.

There was great support from the whole school from the side lines and we also had great involvement from the staff. Some teams dressed up, made signs and wore face paint.

Leading up to Christmas the Active School Flag class have been trying to organise more events for the school. We used our survey results to see what events and activities the students and staff would like to do. Using our results, we can make sure that everyone will enjoy the events we plan and that everyone will have fun.

The ASF class also helped to organise the TY Run in the Dark event. There was great participation from students and staff. It was a huge success and we got great feedback from the TY students and staff.

We helped the First Years with their fitness tests by splitting into small groups at each station and explaining to each group what they had to do. We helped them with timing and demonstrated what needed to be done. It was a lot of fun as there was music playing and the students got to record their results.

We are very excited to be helping with the Goal mile on the 26th of December in Terenure College. All welcome, it promises to be a great morning in aid of Goal.

Our ASF board in the GPA has been updated regularly. Students please check out our board for any upcoming events we have planned!



Coiste Gaeilge

This term in Coiste we have been very busy organising lots of different fun activities to promote Gaeilge within the school. After the success of the TY song competition last term we decided to do it again, this time with a Christmas theme. All the TYs really enjoyed this and we had the fifth year Coiste members judging the competition with the help of our first year Coiste representatives.



As well as this each First Year class had to create posters for Christmas movies as Gaeilge. The different movies were; The Nativity (B1), Home Alone (C1), Polar Express (L1), The Grinch (M1) and Elf (P1). They were a fun and festive sight in the corridors and we had lots of fun film facts as Gaeilge on the posters.

Finally, in Coiste we did a scavenger hunt trí gaeilge. There were clues all around the school with letters beside them spelling a word in Irish. When they found the word, they put it into the box in Ms Kinsella's room or as we like to say Ms Tinsella's room and the winners received their prizes.

We meet every Wednesday after school in Ms. Kinsella's room. Our members include 10 Transition Year students and 8 Fifth year students. Coiste members have a green badge that you might see on the corridor. We also have 5 First Year reps, one from each of the classes. For more information on the Coiste Gaeilge, have a look at the notice board beside Ms. Kinsella's room, or the new board that will be displayed in the GPA.

- Kathryn King TY2 and Rachel Vaughan L5

Library

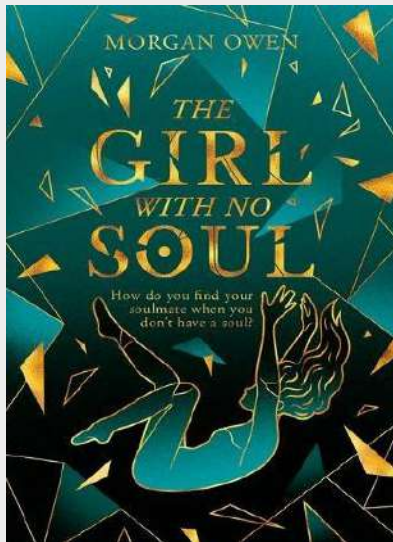
This term has been a very busy one here in the library! We have a ton of new books thanks to the generous donations from students, parents and staff! The books have proved to be very popular as students checked them out as soon as they were on the shelf. Thank you again for every book donated!

Our student librarians have been very busy this term setting up new book displays for Stand Up Awareness Week and decorating the library for Christmas. With the help of numerous students, a Christmas inspired tree was constructed entirely out of books! It took very impressive teamwork from the students to create our bookmas tree.



The library has also run another writing competition this term. It was short stories inspired by Christmas. Congratulations to Kiera Mason C2 for winning first place with her terrific short story; “ A Magical Christmas”.

Our book club has finished their first book of the year. The students read “The Girl with No Soul” by Morgan Owen. Our own book lover Emma has written a book review below;



How can you find your soulmate, when you don't have a soul? Iris lives in a world ruled by The Order. Inspectors police the population by keeping careful watch over people's souls. If they shine their lanterns on you, your soul is projected for the world to see... and judge. But Iris has a deadly secret she is a hollow, a person with no soul. She must hide from the Order at all costs, scraping a living in the shadows. When she's sent to steal a ring said to hold the memory of a soul's destruction, she is reunited with her Spark - one of the five parts that make up her own missing soul. Now she must rely on the help of a young scholar named Evander Mountebank to track down the other four missing pieces of her soul, all the while evading The Order.

The story was really good and had an interesting plot but some of the book club member don't agree. They wished that the story did not have a romantic interest for the main character. They wanted a sadder ending for Evander at the end. Over all many of us enjoyed the book and we can't wait to start a new one in January. Book club is looking forward to new members joining in January as well!

Light House Committee

This term I was lucky enough to be involved in the Light House committee, a mentoring group that offers support and help, and to be a friendly face for all second year students. As the weeks went on, we created notice boards in each of the base classrooms, and continued decorating them throughout the different weeks in the school such as science week, reading week, and mental health week. Exams were in early November, and we offered study tips and tricks to the Second Years. We supported and helped each other throughout the exam week and celebrated by watching the Late Late Toy Show after the final day of exams! As part of our Christmas activity, each of the classes took part in a Christmas quiz, kindly created by the Sixth Years and the friendly competition was really put to the test! Then each



class took part in a different activity, depending on each classes' likes and dislikes. For example, C2 are known for their fun yet competitive nature, so we took part in a bingo game, with sweets at stake, of course! Other classes took part in activities such as cookie decorating, hangman and more! A great time was had by all and the close bond between each group and their mentor could be seen throughout the year. I can gladly say both the mentors and their Light House groups are looking forward to the next term and seeing what 2023 has in store for us!

- Síofra McKenzie L5

Student Council

Dear fellow students of OLS,

We are your handy dandy student council here to update you on what we have been up to the last few months! We started off the year with us electing the main leadership roles on the council and are now #professionalstudentcounsellors after our ISSU student council training. So, we are now able to tackle any issues you throw at us! (please don't throw things at us).

Here at the student council we actually like to hear you all complain for once so if you have any suggestions do not be afraid to tell your class representative. So far with your input we have drafted a letter to management with requests for the no eyelash rule to be reviewed, incoming Fifth Years to scurry off at lunchtime and more types of sports teams to really get those wellbeing indicators ticked off, to name a few.



Our amazing and stylish uniform will also be getting some new updates with a potential half zip coming your way to make sure you stay in fashion throughout all the OLS seasons. Please continue following current uniform guidelines so we can make this happen!

Instead of using the upper GPA area as a place to balance your books on the balcony (we're looking at you First Years), we are planning on turning it into a new social area! People in the council have been designing this area making it as Pinterest and aesthetically pleasing as possible for you all.

If you would like to see our lovely eager faces our notice board is along the P House corridor with photos from each year. You are also able to make suggestions in the little box there if you are a bit shy...

We are really looking forward to making OLS great again with your input and hope to make more positive changes in the new year!

Xoxo

The Student Council



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Gifts to the Crib

Last week was a big week for everyone at Our Lady's School. Importantly, was the Gifts to the Crib. OLS is the school that keeps on giving! Everyone who took part in the Gifts to the Crib should be happy with themselves for making the effort to put together what was a special and most charitable spectacle. This year's giving of gifts to those who are most in need, will benefit from the generosity shown by staff and students. Charities that received gifts from OLS were Saoirse, Temple Street Children's Hospital, Dogs Trust, Saint Vincent De Paul, and Crumlin Hospital. One photo from Temple Street receiving some toys and goodies on Friday. Thank you to everyone.





Adorations

Adoration has now started on Fridays. Known as the Holy Hour, this will take place in the Oratory starting at 12:30 to 1:30. This form of meditation is where staff and students get the chance to unwind from your busy thoughts. For one hour, or as much time as you can, spend time in the presence of Jesus in quietness, solitude, and relax in your own personal reflection, all in silence and in your own personal thoughts and prayers.

Merry Christmas everyone and May God Bless one and all.
Peace be with You

- Leo Devine Chaplain

