



May 28th 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

I would like to thank you and your families for the continued support that you have shown the staff and students of Our Lady's throughout this year. Despite the restrictions created by Covid 19 education has continued both in school and remotely throughout the year. The community of OLS emerges stronger and more empowered having had to reinvent itself yet again to ensure the continued education of your daughters. Your daughters have assisted this process by their positive engagement both in the classroom and also remotely.

We recognise that there has been some loss of education due to the past year and a half of restrictions and we will be putting a 'Catch Up' revision programme in place in September to assist where needed. This will also include enhanced academic tracking of students and the implementation of relevant interventions to aid students where needed.

We held a special hybrid in-school and remote graduation for our 6th Year students who have contributed so well to our school over the past 6 years. We wish them the very best in their State Exams in June. Their teachers are currently busy working on school estimated marks which will be forwarded to the Department of Education for Accredited Grades. We hope that this dual Leaving Cert 2021 will be of benefit to the class of 2021.

Many thanks to the whole community for your valuable assistance in fundraising for the hockey pitch. Whilst we are still collecting the final monies from the Sponsored Walk we are confident that we are close to our fundraising target of €150,000 and have ordered the replacement pitch. We are delighted to announce that this pitch will be laid over the Summer and will be ready for our students to use in the new academic year.

We will also move the best of the old pitch around the back to the old gravel pitch to facilitate an additional third of a pitch for any outdoor activities suitable and also for an additional outdoor eating area. Many thanks to the Parents' Council for their continued support this year and for their contribution of 5 benches to be used as outdoor seating. This will enhance current outdoor facilities for our students.

We are delighted to be introducing Leaving Certificate PE as a 5th Year subject option and our staff have been busy preparing for this new specification and ensuring that all relevant equipment is in place for this new course.

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Principal:
Marguerite Gorby

Deputy Principals:
Stephen Rhatigan, Aoife Ronan

1st to 5th Year summer reports will be available online next week at, olschool.vsware.ie. You will be notified through the App when they are published and also when the return to school schedule, costs, book lists, recommended reading lists, draft calendar for 2021/1 and uniform requirements become available. You are advised to view information on acceptable school shoes and piercings.

School Uniform 2021/2022

Whilst restrictions remain in place students will be permitted to wear their school tracksuit or school uniform each day to school. **No leggings are allowed to be worn to school.** Following extensive consultation with the Student Council and the student body a new school tracksuit bottoms and school shorts are now on the uniform list. **You do not need to replace the current school tracksuit.** We will also be introducing optional school trousers, they won't be ready for this September as they are still in the consultation stage. Following community consultation it has been decided that the 1 hour timetable will stay in place moving forward. Lunch time will be increased from 40 mins to 50 minutes. **The new school times are Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri 8.30am to 3.28pm. Wed will remain a shortened school day, 8.30am to 1.40pm.**

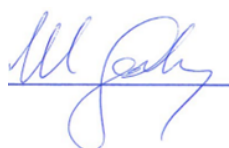
Additional costs for each student, which cover items such as school journals, lockers, etc. are payable on or before the return to school date. Many year groups have been given credits towards cost next year against monies that were not spent this year. Please note that prompt payment of these costs assists the smooth running of the school. Payments can be made online, via the 'Easy Payments' tab on the school website.

The DES provides a grant to the school, to assist families who need help with the cost of schoolbooks. Families experiencing genuine difficulty may be eligible for assistance. Applications for a grant can be made by completing a 'Book Grant Form', which is available to download from the school website. Please send in forms, with receipts to the office when your daughter returns to school. If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact us. All queries will be handled in the strictest of confidence.

I really look forward to meeting you all again in late August /September as we bring all that we have learnt during these unprecedented times with us and work together setting high expectations in the holistic development of the students of Our Lady's.

I wish all our students and their families a happy, safe and peaceful summer.

Yours sincerely



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