

Our Lady's School Newsletter



Dear Parents & Guardians,

It is hard to fathom that another academic year has come to an end. The summer term has been action-packed and has flown by before we knew it. The Department of Education and Skills Whole School Evaluation—Management, Leadership and Learning (WSE-MLL) meant a lot of extra work for the whole school community. It was a great opportunity for students and staff to showcase the excellent teaching and learning practice in our classrooms. We are delighted with the preliminary findings that teaching and learning is highly effective in our classrooms—a very high standard which is hard to achieve. It is an outstanding endorsement of the quality of learning and teaching in OLS. This was a whole school community review and I would like to thank the Board of Management, parents, staff and students for their support.

The Summer term brings with it many new sports. 26 teams have been battling it out on the rounders pitches for the Junior and Senior Rounders Cups. Our tennis teams are still busy in the Leinster leagues whilst we continue to increase our participants in all events in the Leinster athletics competitions.

The Open Day in May was a tremendous success and we got many compliments about our 4th and 5th Years who acted as ambassadors for the school, showing our visitors around. The school was filled with parents and prospective students who toured the school and listened to a presentation on the OLS ethos. The Parents' Council as always supported us and held a plant sale and hosted a pop-up coffee shop to raise funds for the school. We really appreciate all the Parents' Council do to enhance life in Our Lady's

The whole school community, supported by the Parents' Council, have embraced the need to fundraise for the replacement of the astro turf pitch. The sponsored walk raised over €11,500 and the Parents' Council Race night added €6,500 to the fund, which now stands at nearly €39,00. We have made an

excellent start and we say a big thanks for your generous support to date. We have a long way to go yet to reach our target of €300,000 so please watch out for details of future fundraisers during the autumn term.

Our Lady's has once again been awarded the Wellread National Award for growing a reading culture in our school. The library is a vibrant and active space which is fully utilised every day to develop literacy within the school.

We will be one of only 3 schools nationally who have been selected to pilot the post primary Active Schools' Flag in the academic year 2019-2020. The Active School Flag (ASF) is awarded to schools that strive to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. This reinforces our commitment to increasing our students' physical activity and aligns with our commitment to the 20/20 campaign to increase female participation in sport by 20% by 2020. We have also introduced a sign-posted walk way around the school, 'Sli na Slainte' to encourage students to be physically active throughout the school day.

6th Year Graduation as always was a very special event. The class of 2019 created a theme for the mass and wrote the homily and prayers. Their engagement in the celebration of mass was clear to see. Their musical talents were demonstrated that night and we know that the class of 2019 were a group of students with many talents who will be missed.

Many thanks to Ms Harte our librarian who has co-ordinated the Newsletter this year. I hope that the addition of the half-termly newsletters has helped you to have a clearer understanding of life in the school and demonstrates how the school community actively supports the holistic development of all students.

Best wishes to all our OLS families for a restful and enjoyable Summer.

Marguerite Gorby | Principal



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GREEN SCHOOLS

Pollinator Plan

As a third of Ireland's bee species are threatened with extinction, OLS are taking positive action by opting in to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. This biodiversity initiative encourages communities across the country to increase the amount of food (wildflowers) and safe-nesting sites for pollinators by reducing the use of pesticides and allowing grass and hedgerows to grow. Our school caretaker Mr Walsh has been working to make the school grounds more pollinator friendly by planting wildflowers and minimizing mowing to allow bees and other insect pollinators to thrive.

Mr Walsh has also created a 'Bug Hotel' from pallets, sticks, bamboo, stones, bricks, timber and cardboard. The bug hotel provides shelter for pollinating insects, such as bees, butterflies, moths, flies, ants and beetles, whose habitats are dwindling. By building a bug hotel we help the insects to pollinate plants and this is vital as it's estimated that without pollinators 80% of all the plants we use for food would disappear.

To find out more about the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and what you can do to support Ireland's biodiversity, go to <https://pollinators.ie/>



SEAI National Finals

Congratulations to Róisín Brazil, Maura O' Riordan, Rachel Li and Hannah Murphy from B2 who gave a presentation at the SEAI 'One Good Idea' National Finals on Tuesday, May 14th. They were selected as one of the top 10 teams in Ireland to present their 'Wood You Brush' campaign. This is a student-led campaign to switch from using plastic toothbrushes to bamboo toothbrushes. Throughout their campaign they created awareness through making online surveys, creating a video, giving presentations, selling toothbrushes, contacting radio stations and getting an ecopreneur to give a talk to the 1st Years.

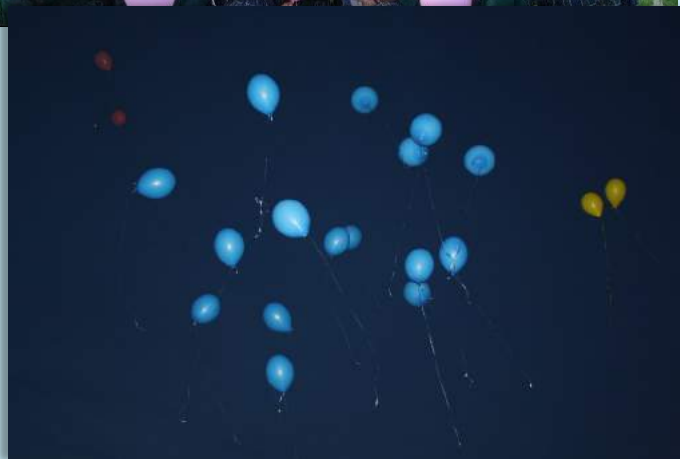
Find out more about the SEAI One Good Idea competition here: <https://www.seai.ie/news-and-media/one-good-idea-2019/>



L-R Rachel Li, Róisín Brazil, Maura O'Riordan and Hannah Murphy

6th Year Graduation

Graduation Day for the 6th Years began with a special breakfast in St. Joseph's Hall organised by the 6th Year form teachers. It was a wonderful opportunity for the girls to reminisce and enjoy each other's company before the action of the day accelerated! The graduation ceremony itself was both a meaningful and celebratory event. The RE and Music departments worked with the girls to prepare a beautiful mass reflective of the occasion. Students were presented with a copy of the yearbook published by the TY Journalism class. After the official ceremony which ended, as is tradition, with a rousing 6th Year medley of songs selected and practised to perfection, the graduates released (biodegradable) balloons before finishing the evening back in St. Joseph's Hall, this time for a reception hosted by the Parents' Council! It was a memorable evening to mark a momentous milestone. Thank you to all involved in giving the 6th Years such a fine send off!



Best wishes to Our Lady's School Class of 2019!



5th Year Careers Night

5th Year Careers Night

Our annual 5th Year Careers Night took place on Thursday, May 2nd. The event facilitated students to meet people from a range of professions in order to assist them with their career research. The event was a great success with positive feedback from students, as they gained valuable insights into various career areas. Sincere thanks to Ms Karina Curly and the Parents' Council for their help and support in running this event and a big thank you also to the parents, past-pupils and friends of OLS who participated in the event and shared their professional experience with the students.



LCA Afternoon Tea

LCA Roundup

The Leaving Certificate Applied Programme is an alternative Leaving Cert course that incorporates continuous assessment, projects and terminal exams. This year eight students began the programme in OLS and they have now completed almost 50% of their Leaving Certificate. The group excelled at a range of activities this year included starting their own business, preparing a three course meal for the staff, being interviewed and conducting their own interviews with a local business woman. We wish the girls all the best as they complete their Spanish Leaving Cert Exam in June.



TY UPDATE

Student Leaders Congress

The TY students attended the Student Leaders Congress on Tuesday, April 9th, in the 3Arena. The Congress is part of the Cycle Against Suicide School's programme, which aims to educate young people on issues of resilience, mental health stigma, positive attitudes towards mental health and coping mechanisms. The theme of this year's event was #PositiveVibesSuperLives. The girls got involved in the sing-alongs and particularly enjoyed the music section of the event where they were entertained by Kodakid and The Academic. The girls learned many useful tools, and heard from some fantastic speakers which no doubt will help them in developing positive and healthy attitudes to mental health.



Student Leaders Congress



Toastmasters

Toastmasters

On Thursday, April 11th, our final cohort of TYs for this year completed their Toastmasters course. All students were wonderful speakers, just adjudicators, and imaginative debaters when it came to the one minute topics round. Daisy Baneham and Jodie O'Neill won awards on the night for their speech making skills, which they developed through the Toastmasters course. We wish all the girls the best of luck in their future using their new skills of writing and delivering speeches.

Camino Trip

On April 13th, 37 students and 4 teachers set off to take on the challenge of the Camino. The goal was to complete the Last 100km of the Camino Francés – the French Way. The French Way is the most traditional of all pilgrims' routes to Santiago de Compostela. The Camino De Santiago is an exciting mental and physical challenge, and the girls certainly rose to it! The group began in the town of Sarria and walked 114 km over five days, through the towns of Portomarín, Palas De Rei, Ribadiso and Pedrouzo and arrived into Santiago de Compostela on Holy Thursday.

The girls faced many challenges along the way – a variety of weather conditions and some inevitable blisters to name a few. The OLS girls are to be commended for the resilience, enthusiasm and positivity they showed along the way! They were a credit to



the school and their superb conduct and positive energy was noted by the many pilgrims we shared the route with. Everyone made it to Santiago in high spirits and there was great euphoria as the group arrived to the end point of the pilgrimage – the Cathedral.

Thanks to Ms Murphy, Ms Ronan, Ms Parsons and Ms Gavin for their time and efforts in organising this memorable trip.

Gaisce Hike

On May 3rd 93 excited TY students headed off to Glendalough for their 2 day Adventure Journey as part of their Gaisce certification. After an enthusiastic sing-song on the bus journey down, all students dropped off their bags and got ready to hike. They completed a total of 16 kilometers on day one and then headed back to the hostel for the night. After the bedrooms were assigned, the beds were made, and all students had cooked their own dinners it was off to bed to be well rested for the second day of hiking. The next morning even the hailstones did not deter the students from packing their bags, donning their hiking gear, and setting off. Thankfully the skies cleared and the sun shone through out the hike. The students completed the final 9km of hiking and finished with a picnic in the sunshine. Well done to all who completed the hike and to those who have now completed their Gaisce Bronze Award qualification.



TY Pilgrims on the Camino



Gaisce Glendalough Hike



Rec Studies students on Howth Head



Rec Studies: 3 Peaks Challenge

TY Rec Studies students had a fantastic day in Howth on Monday, May 20th. There was sunshine, shimmering sea, beautiful scenery and some ice cream and other treats after their hike. Well done to all those TYs who successfully completed our 3 Peaks Challenge.





TY students present Eamon Sharkey from GOAL with a cheque for €10,500



TY Night

Congratulations to our TYs who prepared an impressive showcase for TY Night on Wednesday, May 22nd. The projects displayed were of excellent quality and the dancing and performances on the night were superb. The Enterprise class also presented Eamon Sharkey from Goal with a cheque for the money they raised during the goal Mile event on St. Stephens Day. As the highest amount raised of all Goal Miles in Ireland over the Christmas period, they've left big boots to fill for our TYs 2019/2020. The girls have had a busy year but have taken it all in their stride and as their theme for TY Night says 'We did it all'. We wish them a relaxing summer break before they get stuck into the exciting challenge of 5th Year.

PDST 'Wellread National Award'

We are delighted to have once again been awarded the PDST Wellread National Award for growing a reading culture in our school. In their letter to us the PDST say, 'It was such an enjoyable experience for us to gain insight into all the initiatives you undertook as a whole school community to get everybody reading. The enthusiasm and creativity of all involved was evident in your school's portfolio. We commend you for bringing your school community together in such an enriching and worthwhile manner'. Sincere thanks to all the students, staff and parents for their efforts and dedication to making OLS a 'Wellread' school.

School Digital Champion Showcase

On Thursday, May 2nd, a group of 2nd and 4th Year students attended the 2019 'School Digital Champion' showcase at the Foundry innovation centre in Google. The event featured a Samsung Interactive Space, Google Cardboard, project stands, as well as talks from a number of guests, including Samsung, YouTube, and Minister Seán Canney.

4th Year students Aoife Martin, Connie Heather and Rachel Doyle showcased their 'PopUpCup' website. They used weebly to construct the site and sold reusable cups in school to generate environmental awareness. 2nd Year students Sophia Noble, Elsa Brady, Jane Moore and Eimear Joyce showcased their history resources on their class website. They used podcasts, graphic organisers and links to resources to develop resources for History. This was a great opportunity to showcase their creativity and digital skills.



Wellread B1s!



Digital Champions





Coiste Gaeilge receiving their Gaelbhrtach

Gaelbhrtach

Well done to the Coiste Gaeilge who received their Gaelbhrtach this month. Conradh na Gaeilge were most impressed by the activities organised this year. The 5th Years collected the Gaelbhrtach flag on behalf of the school at a presentation on Tuesday, May 21st.

Terenure College Musical

Karen Gunn (L5) who starred in the Terenure College/ OLS production of Hairspray writes, 'Tuesdays and Thursdays easily became the best days of my week when we started rehearsals for Hairspray in January. In between rehearsals we had games nights, movie days and lots of pizza to help the cast bond. After countless hours of perfecting the Maddison and mastering 30 second quick changes, it was finally time for the show. Our first matinee show on May 7th was nerve-wracking and a bit rough around the edges but our show that night was an unforgettable experience. The cast and crowd had the most amazing energy that carried on throughout the week. With every night the show seemed to get bigger and better. It was definitely the highlight of my 5th Year experience.'



The cast of Hairspray



OLS Open Day & Plant Sale

We hosted our annual Open Day on Saturday, April 11th, in tandem with the Parents' Council Plant Sale. Future students of OLS and their families enjoyed the opportunity to explore the school under the expert guidance of our 5th Year leadership team (the incoming 6th Year Council) and our TY students. Ms Reilly's choir (5th and 6th Year students) performed in the GPA giving a snapshot of the musical life in the school. Ms Gorby, Mr Rhatigan and Ms Ronan gave a short presentation illustrating the ethos and features of OLS that newcomers might like to know.

As always, the visiting families were most impressed by our student representatives who showed them around, answered their questions and gave them a warm welcome to our school. Well done to all the students and teachers involved in the Open Day.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Dublin Feile 2019

Six 1st and 2nd Year OLS students were part of the Templeogue Synge Street U14 team that won the division 5 Dublin Feile 2019 on May 19th. Well done to Doireann Doyle, Cassie Dunlevy, Caitlin Evoy, Róisín Evoy, Mary Anne Harte, and Rebecca Horne on a terrific achievement.

May Day at Áras an Uachtaráin

A variety of youth groups from across Ireland gathered in Áras an Uachtaráin to celebrate May Day on May 1st. Among the attendees was LCA student and AslAm member Gráinne Butler. AslAm is an organisation representing the autism community in Ireland and Gráinne was selected to represent them at this event. She is part of the organisation's youth leadership team and is training to be an autism ambassador. Gráinne says, 'I was delighted to meet the President and was very proud to be there as a representative of AslAm and as a member of the autism community.' Well done, Gráinne—you've done both AslAm and OLS proud.



L-R: Rebecca Horne, Mary Anne Harte, Caitlin Evoy, Róisín Evoy, Cassie Dunlevy & Doireann Doyle



Gráinne Butler and President Michael D. Higgins

Past Pupil Success

Congratulations to past pupil Laura Katherine Finnegan on winning the 2019 Mary Mulvihill Award for 2019. The award commemorates the legacy of science journalist and author Mary Mulvihill who died in 2015 and the theme of this year's competition was 'Science for the love of it'. Entrants were encouraged to submit work in any format that explored the personal motivations and passions of scientists. Laura's entry was "a sampler" for an illustrated children's book profiling notable Irish scientists, including Mulvihill, and the judges noted that it reflected the pleasure in storytelling and skill in imparting information that marked Mary's work. Laura is an Irish Research Council Government of Ireland postgraduate scholar at the Smurfit Institute of Genetics in TCD. Her research explores the use of gene therapy to treat inherited retinal degenerative conditions, to halt or prevent loss of vision. We would like to congratulate Laura on her achievement and wish her every success in her career in science.



Laura Katherine Finnegan and her illustration of Ernst Walton

Prize-Giving 2019

The annual OLS prize giving ceremonies took place on the final two days of the school year. Awards for outstanding academic and sports achievement were presented on Thursday, May 30th, and on Friday, May 31st, special awards were presented to students who, in the opinion of the teaching staff, have displayed admirable personal qualities and talents.

The **Ann Brodie Award** is presented in memory of Mrs Brodie, who taught at Our Lady's for 33 years and was Principal for 16 years. The 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. This year's recipient is Edie Thorup.

The **Father Carey Cup** commemorates the late Chaplain to our school and is given to a school leaver who has displayed high standards of public spirit, integrity and commitment throughout her whole school career. This award was presented to Clodagh Holohan.

The **Orla Kearney Trophy** commemorates Orla Kearney, 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. It is given to a student who, like Orla, has striven for excellence in all aspects of her life both inside and outside school. This award was presented to Kate Clarke.

The **Paul Cullen Cup** is given 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. It is awarded for services to the community and this year Katie Herbert is the recipient.

The **Cathy Gray Trophy** is in memory of Cathy Gray, who died in a car accident whilst a pupil of Our Lady's. It recognises a student who exhibits qualities of friendliness, warmth and light-heartedness, qualities which epitomised Cathy during her years in school. Hannah Green is this year's recipient.

The **Sinéad Harty Trophy** is presented in memory of Sinéad Harty, 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. This trophy was presented to Hannah Perry.

The **Sandra Brady Trophy** is presented in memory of Sandra Brady, a pupil who died during her time at Our Lady's. This trophy is given to a student who has met the challenges of school life with good humour and determination. Anna Williams is this year's recipient.

Finally, the **Eileen Malone Cup** commemorates the former Principal of Our Lady's Junior School and is awarded to a Junior Cycle student who has displayed qualities of public spirit over the last three years. This award was presented to Shona Kelly.

Congratulations to all students who received awards over the two days of prize-giving.



Edie Thorup



Clodagh Holohan



Kate Clarke





OLS SPORTS FACILITY FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thank you to all of the families who have contributed to our fundraising campaign to date. A strong focus on the link between wellbeing and physical activity is of paramount importance to us in Our Lady's School. We are proud of how much our students benefit from our vibrant and inclusive sporting and extracurricular culture and The OLS Sports Facilities Fundraiser seeks to protect and improve our capacity to provide this.

The aim of our fundraising strategy is to drive the improvement of the sporting facilities used by our students every day. Our initial target is to replace the astroturf sports pitch which, built in 1999, is fast approaching the end of its lifespan. This will cost in the region of €300,000.

Well done to the OLS community for raising €38,000 to date!

All donations are gratefully received and can be made in a variety of ways and for whatever amount you deem appropriate:

- There is a facility on Easy Payments Plus (link on the school website) to make your donation, whether it be €200 or an amount you wish to determine yourself.
- There is also a link to a GoFundMe page on our school website (click on the fundraising logo for the link).
- Alternatively, cheques may be made payable to 'Our Lady's School' and returned to Reception in an envelope.



With your financial assistance we can see the students of OLS using a new astroturf pitch within the next two years fulfilling the Our Lady's vision of offering each student the opportunity to reach their full potential.

To donate online, visit olschool.ie and click on either the 'Easy Payments' or 'gofundme' link.

Thank you for your support.



The reason we need to fundraise!

SPORT

Hockey

2018/19 was another busy hockey season at Our Lady's. Training for our 15 teams competing in the Leinster School's League began upon our return to school in August. The commitment shown by our over 240 hockey players is evidenced by their attendance at lunchtime and after school practice through all weathers from August right through to April. Saturday mornings see our teams out on pitches all over Dublin (thanks to their parent chauffeurs/supporters).

This dedication is rewarded by with some fantastic results and lots of great fun along the way. Congratulations to all the players and a special well done to the Senior B and Junior A teams who both made it to the Leinster League Finals in two nail-biting encounters in front of a wildly enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

The season ended as always with plenty of hoots and toots and we look forward to building on the success of this season next year. Best of luck to the 27 4th and 5th Year players who are heading to the USA on June 5th for a hockey tour – we know they will do us all proud!



Junior A Hockey Team



Senior B Hockey Team



Camogie

Our 1st and 2nd Year camogie players took part in the Dublin U14 competition in Division A this year. The girls played some great camogie in the round robin group stage and qualified for the shield semi-final. It was a very competitive semi-final match against Coláiste Ísogáin in Bushy Park but the OLS girls lost out by a few scores.

The U14 team was captained this year by Caoilin Dunne B2. Earlier in the year, the U16 team, captained by Amber Finnegan P4, also played in Division A and reached the shield semi-final and the U19 team, captained by Holly Finnegan C6 won the Division A shield competition.

Well done to all the students who represented OLS this year on the camogie field. Thanks to Ms. Murphy, Ms. Phillips, Ms. Cantwell and Mr. O' Connor for their hard work, dedication and support of OLS camogie this year—here's to continued success in 2019/2020!



OLS Senior Camogie Team with Ms Murphy



Tennis

This year we had teams at Minor, Junior and Senior level playing in the highly competitive Leinster School's League. All three teams acquitted themselves well with many close fought battles. A special mention must go to our Senior A first double pairing of Ciara and Orla O'Toole who were undefeated. Congratulations and best of luck to Ciara who is headed to the USA in August to take up a tennis scholarship at Campbell University in North Carolina.

Rounders

There were a total of 35 teams and over 350 students entered into the 3 school rounders leagues this year. The leagues were very competitive and took place during lunch times in April and May. The students enter their own team of 10 girls, all with very unique team names! The winners of the 1st Year tournament were 'Cool Beanz', captained by Faye Harmon. The winners of the 2nd and 3rd Year competition were 'Serra pa pa pa whoohoo', captained by Maeve Roynane and the winners of the senior competition were 'I'd Hit That', captained by Lily Rath. Well done to all the girls who took part this year, great fun as always.

Athletics

We had a busy year of athletics, starting off with our first ever in house cross-country event for 1st and 2nd Years. Cross-country is not for the faint hearted, so congratulations to everyone who took part. Following the success of our in house cross-country event we had lots of athletes competing in the West-Leinster cross-country competition, with Clara Kinsella, Gracie Browne, Niamh Coffey, Sophie McGovern, Emily Bradshaw and Lucy O'Brien all advancing to the Leinster cross-country. Clara Kinsella went on to qualify and compete in a very competitive All-Ireland cross-country, finishing in the top thirty.



OLS rounders players

Moving from the muddy fields of cross-country in winter to the summer season of track and field, we brought a very strong team to Santry to compete at the West-Leinster track and field event. A special congratulations to Clara Kinsella, Kate Bradshaw, Emily Bradshaw and Jennifer Hanrahan who all advanced to the Leinsters in their respective competitions. The girls competed very well, all finishing in top 10 positions. Congratulations to Jennifer Hanrahan who won the Intermediate long jump with a jump of 5.69m and has qualified for the All Ireland Schools on June 1st and the Tailteann Games on June 22nd. Best of luck, Jennifer!



Jennifer Hanrahan (centre)



CHAPLAINCY CORNER

Lenten Ceremony

This year's Lenten Ceremony 'Nothing great was ever accomplished without making sacrifices' was prepared by M5. They chose this theme as they believe that many people go about their day-to-day activities and never give God the sacrifice of thanksgiving. They wanted to challenge us all to be thankful every day through prayer or living our lives to the best of our ability.

During the Lenten season, M5, with the help of the

Le Chéile Council, worked tirelessly to raise funds for the Make a Wish Foundation. This charity became the chosen charity for the whole of 5th Year, who decided to participate in a 24 hour fast. The rest of the school participated by making a small sacrifice and gave the cost of this treat to charity. Due to the sacrifices made by the school community we managed to raise €1553.95 for this worthy cause. We hope that our contributions will benefit those terminally ill children whose wishes will be granted as a result of the sponsorship they receive.

Graduation Mass

On May 16th the class of 2019 celebrated their School Leavers Mass. The theme they chose to reflect upon six years of fun, friendships and memories was 'How lucky are we to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard?' Through their chosen prayers, music and Homily, they showed gratitude for the education, relationships and faith that has flourished and bloomed during their time in OLS. They recognised the people that have shaped their lives, gave thanks for what was and welcomed the gifts of the future.

On behalf of the parents, sisters of the community and the staff we want to thank the girls for such a meaningful celebration. The sense of respect, maturity and fun was palpable throughout the preparations for and the night itself. We wish the wonderful young ladies of 2019 the best of luck in all their future endeavours and hope that they keep in touch. Congratulations and good luck in the upcoming "summer tests".

