

Our Lady's School Newsletter



■ PAGE 7
Active
HOME Week



OUR
LADY'S
SCHOOL
TERENURE

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We have arrived at the end of our academic year 19/20 and what a memorable year it has been. It has presented the whole school community with a world we would only ever have imagined. It demanded that we all reinvent ourselves, revalue our lives, adapt to the constantly changing landscape and prioritise community values.

Many have had the added burden of bereavements and the anxieties that have gone along with Covid 19 in our community. Many have not seen family members in a long while and others have been isolating on their own. Each member of our community has had their own personal challenges to deal with.

In the midst of all of this I have watched and seen the power of community and have, to be honest, been stunned at the level of giving and altruism that I have seen. The staff of OLS have embraced the world of remote teaching rapidly for the sake of the student body. Countless hours were spent learning new skills, dealing with the frustrations of being a beginner all over again and suddenly having to totally change their teaching style to become an effective communicator online. Despite so many challenges when I asked for weekly changes following feedback from student and staff surveys, they continually stepped up and tried to adjust to meet student needs.

I have been also been so impressed by the way our students also rapidly adapted their learning styles to the remote world. It is not easy to drag yourself out of bed when there is no bell in school ringing to remind you of the class times and to be at your device ready for a day's work. Our girls have learned to be adaptable, to upskill digitally, to look out for their friends by keeping in touch, to deal with frustrations, to live with uncertainty and to solve many of their own problems.

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In this issue:



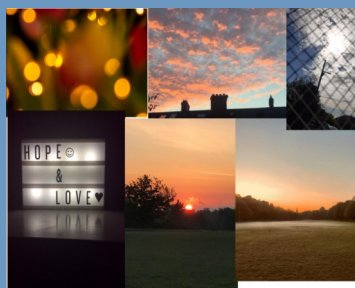
■ PAGE 9 Earth Day 2020



■ PAGE 7: Basketball tips



■ PAGE 3 & 4: Class of 2020



■ PAGE 6 Photography Competition



■ PAGE 5 Incoming Leaders

These are life skills that will stand to them. They also learned the value of the simple things in life, time spent with family, reading a book, walks outside and the beauty that nature offers all of us. They will never be the same again, instead they will emerge from this as more considered, empathetic, and responsible member of society.

Throughout these times our 6th Years have been at the mercy of social media rumours and constant headlines about the changing nature of the Leaving Cert. This has been relentless and despite the continued stresses they kept working and engaging with their teachers. They have shown the utmost respect for the new process of calculated grades and they

have behaved with a maturity and understanding far beyond their years. For this I thank them and assure them that every member of the OLS community will continue to do our utmost for them.

They are ready to embrace all the new opportunities that the world will offer them and I wait to hear of all the wonderful things they will achieve.

Paradoxically lockdown has created a rich and vibrant remote world for our students who embraced online assemblies, Inspirational Quotes competitions, Poetry competitions, Active Flag Challenges, Random Acts of Kindness and my favourite online event, the gratitude journal.

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The richness of talent exhibited by our students throughout these times reflects their creativity, sense of humour and flexibility. Assessment week with many open book exams demonstrated clearly that our students have kept up with their studies and made good progress.

Our motto throughout to our students has been Stay Connected, Stay Positive & Stay Kind. So throughout the break I know our students will continue to support each other in a caring manner.

I wish each member of our school a safe and happy summer and look forward to the corridors of OLS coming to life again in the new term.

Marguerite Gorby
Principal



■ PAGE 9 Pay it Forward Day 2020

Class of 2020

Class of 2020 - Virtual Celebration

May 14th marked the day we were hoping to be in the GPA with our 6th Year students and their families, celebrating the Graduation Mass of the Class of 2020, wishing them well on the next phase of their life journey.

We want the girls to know that the whole school community is thinking of them in solidarity!

Although the current landscape has changed immeasurably from what any of us could have anticipated even a few short months ago, it does not change that the Class of 2020 holds a very special place in our school community. They have played a vibrant role in our school for 6 years and, in the last year particularly, they have been admirable role models for their younger counterparts.

We invited 6th Year students and their families to join us for an on-line Graduation celebration on Wednesday 27th May 2020 at 6pm – while we know that this cannot replace the event we had originally planned, it was an opportunity to mark the time the girls have spent in Our Lady's, to celebrate their years with us and to wish them the very best moving forwards. It proved to be a very special and moving occasion reflecting many positive memories of the girls' time here and tributes from the staff to the girls, testament to the contribution the Class of 2020 has made to OLS life over 6 years.



Class of 2020 - B6



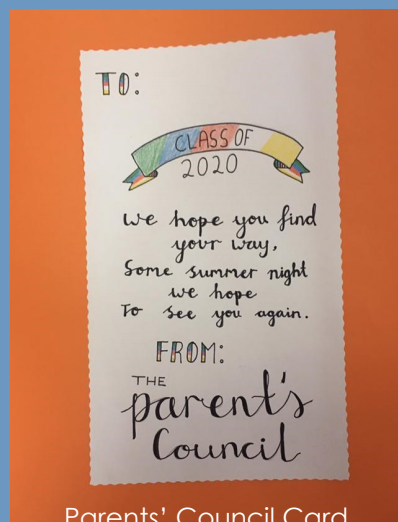
Class of 2020 - C6



Class of 2020 - L6



Year group photo: TY Carlingford



Parents' Council Card

Class of 2020

A Message from the Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl and Sports Captain

All three of us recalled similar memories of looking up from the benches in 1st Year and admiring what seemed to be these adult women who were leading the school. Now that we have become these adult women we still can't really fathom our roles after a whole year. To be able to become a voice for students and to be a leader has been such a phenomenal experience that has brought so many amazing memories. We have loved being involved in school events such as the excitement in our first big roles as leaders in the opening year mass to organizing small events like our Sixth Year tea party. If there's any advice to take away from our school experience, it's to grasp every opportunity you have while you're at Our Lady's. The ethos and attitudes towards school life are there for a reason, to set us up for the future to be outstanding people.



Class of 2020 - M6



Class of 2020 - P6



L-R: Karen Gunn (Deputy Head Girl), Lily Rath (Head Girl),
Ciara Campbell (Sports Captain)

Good
Luck Class
of 2020!

Sports 2019/2020

A message from the Sports Captain

What a great year for sport it has been here in OLS, well done to everyone who took part! There have been some outstanding achievements this year including a league win for the Minor A hockey team, a Division 1 win for both the junior and senior camogie team, both the u16 and u19 badminton teams reaching the Dublin final and countless athletics achievements.

There are a few people who have stood out particularly this year in their sports, including Elizabeth Farrelly, Clara Kinsella and Sophie McGovern in athletics, Sophia Noble for badminton and of course Ellen Walsh who broke an Irish women's record for swimming.

Congratulations to all of you on such a successful year. I hope you continue to play sport next year and look forward to hearing about the school's success!



Ellen Walshe,
International swimmer



Junior & Senior Camogie teams



Hockey team



Badminton team



Cross country runners

Incoming Leaders

A message from the incoming 6th year leaders

Hello Everyone,

We are thrilled to have been elected as the new leadership team for the year to come. It's a strange time to be planning for the future but we are delighted to be given this opportunity to play these key roles in our school community. We really look forward to working alongside the brilliant, enthusiastic team that has been elected as next year's council. We have no doubt that they will be great mentors and will work very hard to positively promote our school. The house system has always been at the heart of our school community and we are very excited to be able to bring new and fresh ideas whilst also continuing all of the wonderful traditions that are unique to Our Lady's. The house system focuses on the wellbeing of our students and creates an identity and sense of belonging in our school community and we are eager to continue to foster this strong tradition. We believe our school environment is positive, inclusive and one of which we can be proud and we are thrilled to be given this platform to encourage and further this. We have been so lucky to be at the receiving end of great guidance from past leadership teams and are so excited to be given the opportunity to give back in this manner. We cannot wait to welcome the incoming 1st Years and all of the new students to Our Lady's. We hope to ensure they settle in quickly and receive a warm welcome into our community. With the help of the council, we hope to be able to support these new students helping and guiding them in every way we can. We are thrilled to be able to pass on all that we have learnt through the Our Lady's community and to introduce others to Our Lady's and all that it stands for. Although our community has been distanced at this time, we feel now more than ever the strong need to communicate and stay connected. We are very excited to begin and look forward to welcoming all the members of our community back in the new school year!

Grace, Anna and Amber.

Next Year's Leadership Team

We are proud to announce the outcome of the council elections for next year's 6th Year Leadership Team:

Head Girl: Grace Duffy B5

Deputy Head Girl: Anna Boyle L5

Sports Captain: Amber Finnegan P5

House Captains: B House - Saoirse Murphy, M House - Alisia De Brun, C House - Anna Sweeney, P House - Julie Traynor, L House - Alison Herbert.



Grace Duffy - Head Girl



Anna Boyle — Deputy Head Girl



Amber Finnegan — Sports Captain

Staying Connected - Competitions, News & Activities



Active School Flags - Tug of War



Active HOME Week - Basketball tips

Active HOME Week!

April 27th was the beginning of Active HOME Week nationwide. The challenge, set by Active School Flags, was to find four different ways of being active every day, making sure that this added up to 60 minutes, or more, of physical activity in the day.

All members of our OLS family were encouraged to take on the challenge and to use the tracker to note their activity over the week!

Well done to all who participated in the challenge, the junior prize winner was Eva McCormack P1 and the senior prize winner, Tara McLaughlin B4. Both girls had a fantastic range of fun activities in their activity diaries.

To help inspire our students during the weeks of learning at home our basketball coach put together some coaching tips and demos for anyone who wanted to practice their basketball skills!

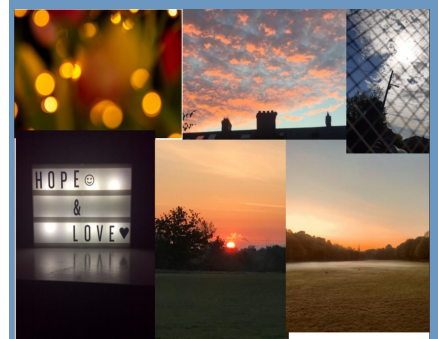
Darkness into Light - Photography Competition

As a school community, led by the 5th Years, we were due to take part in Darkness into Light on Saturday, May 9th. Even though the event couldn't take place we wanted to raise awareness of the work of Pieta House who support those going through dark times. To help bring a little light and sunshine into all our lives, the Lighthouse mentors ran a photo competition whereby students were asked to take and send in a photo that incorporated some kind of light symbol.

Well done to all who entered and the winners of the competition: Saffron Ralph L4, Clara Wilkins C1 and Kate Mullarkey B5.

Weekly Writing Competition

Creativity knows no bounds in OLS. During our final term the English teachers were blown away by the work of our students. Many students participated in our weekly writing competition, and really stretched their creative muscles. Our final winners this term are Connie Heather, B5 and Clara Wilkins. Congratulations ladies!



Shine a Light - Examples of work

Calling all Writers!

- OLS are inviting all students to respond creatively to the COVID crisis through our weekly writing competition.
- This week our chosen theme is 'Teach'.
- Please write no more than 250 words in response to this theme, you may write a poem or a piece of prose on a google document and share it with your English teacher by 3.10 this Thursday April 30th.
- Two pieces will be selected each week (one Junior and one Senior) and will be shared with our school community via our School App.

Good luck!



Weekly writing competition

Staying Connected - Competitions, News & Activities



Volunteer for ALL Award Shield



Working with volunteer

Volunteering for ALL Award

Everyone at OLS engages with charity initiatives at school. We wanted to find out more about the different types of volunteering taking place at school and within the wider community. We decided to try to obtain the Volunteer for All award for our school.

Last February, students from the Le Chéile Council and the Saint Vincent De Paul committee took part in a workshop about volunteering to celebrate the diversity and voluntary work in our school through exploring what volunteerism is, and exploring that no matter someone's background, circumstance, or who they are, that we can all make a positive contribution to the places in which we live.

With the help of Localise, we also created a school volunteer charter - looking at the rights and responsibilities as volunteers in the school. As part of the award, we also asked the whole school to complete a survey about the volunteering they carry out within their local communities. From the survey, our findings showed that the students at Our Lady's are heavily involved in volunteering projects both within the school and the wider community. Well done OLS!

Action Aid - Speech Writing Competition

Well done to Louise Brennan in L4 on reaching the finals of the Action Aid speech writing competition! A super achievement! We wish her the very best of luck in the final round!

Little Things Competition

It's more important than ever to seek out the positives in life that we can be thankful for.

Enjoy the OLS [Gratitude Journal](#) compiled by our chaplain, Ms Donlon...and all of you! Well done to Gráinne Butler, 6th Year, winner of the #littletings competition! Gráinne has taken inspiration from our November Knitathon and is using knitting to relax and brighten up her day!



Little Things Competition



Mural by past pupil, Emma Blake

Taking inspiration from a past pupil

You might recognise this mural painted by a past pupil, artist Emma Blake. It's a great reminder that working together, we can do it too!

Staying Connected - Competitions, News & Activities



Lauren Dwyer, B4, cooking up a storm!

TY Chinese Class - Cooking demonstration

Our OLS TY students have been busy at home, with some students practicing their cooking skills! We shared some instructions on the app on how to make a Chinese Chicken & Cashew treat for dinner courtesy of the TY Chinese class! Thanks to the starring chef, Lauren, for the top tips!

The Coiste Gaeilge's message

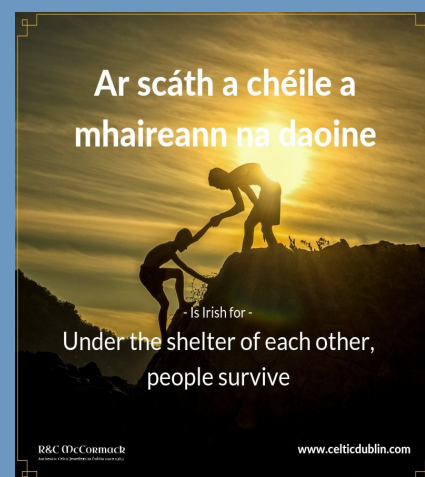
The Coiste Gaeilge have explained it very well!

'During these weeks we all rely on one another. Be it from our friends family and those working to keep us all safe. Each of us has a role in being there for one another checking in with friends and family to navigate our way through the isolation and loneliness that can be felt during lockdown. There is hope and light found in these small acts as we demonstrate love and kindness. A seanfhocal we believe best represents this hope is: **'Ar scath a chéile a mhaireann daoine'** This translates as 'people survive with the support (or 'shadow') of each other'.

At the moment, the overwhelming stress of the situation can feel similar to a blazing sun in the sky; blinding and unbearable. Many people are feeling the consequences of this prolonged stress, but we are here to tell you that you do not need to endure it alone. There is one solace against a sweltering sun: and that is 'shade'. In these uncertain times, we must stand together and be each other's support, each other's comfort, each other's 'shade'.

This seanfhocal reminds us of the front line workers who are risking their own safety for ours, they have given us 'shade' to survive as they protect us at this time from Covid-19. 'Not all heroes wear capes'.

Le linn na laethanta uaigneach seo, caithimid cúnamh a thabhairt dá chéile. Tá siúl againn go bhfuil gach duine slán sábháilte. Ná déan dearmad: 'Ar scath a chéile a mhaireann daoine'!



A message from The Coiste Gaeilge

Chaplaincy Corner

A vibrant, creative and accessible Chaplaincy exists in Our Lady's School. It is an integral and vital part of the school life. We have had a fantastic term and so much has been achieved by our students and staff over the past few weeks despite working remotely. Well done to all involved in maintaining the Christian ethos of the school and the implementation of its mission.

Events - Pay it Forward Day 2020

Lé Chéile's Pay It Forward Day took place on Friday 3rd April. The theme was #loveyourneighbour. As there were restrictions in place, students dropped off goods to their neighbours, made cards/wrote postcards/made cakes/cookies for people working in the healthcare sector and also helped their parents around the house by cooking, cleaning and baking! See below a snapshot of some of the wonderful acts of kindness performed by the students:



"I made cookies for my older neighbours who have to stay inside."
#loveyourneighbour

As my #love your neighbour task, I minded my neighbours children as she is a nurse in a hospital and her husband is away. I also made some cookies and left them for her with a note explaining about the task. She was very grateful and the kids loved the cookies!"
Ellen Ward P4



Events - Earth Day 2020

On 22nd April, the students from OLS celebrated Earth Day by pledging to do something positive for the environment this year. Many pledges included walking more instead of using transport, taking shorter showers, growing vegetables, using a reusable water bottle!

We were really inspired by all the photos and posters that the students sent in. See below a snapshot of their wonderful work.



The students and staff at OLS took part in a gratitude journal. We asked everyone to submit a picture of something that they were grateful for and we received lots of lovely pictures varying from pets to countryside to the wonderful online connectivity that we've become accustomed to.

